

سكنا من الاربع

Weekend

FINANCIAL TIMES

Weekend FT
Royals - the family firms
SECTION II



The tiger's sorry tale



Take the plunge
3 pages on water sports



World Business Newspaper

WEEKEND APRIL 20/APRIL 21 1996

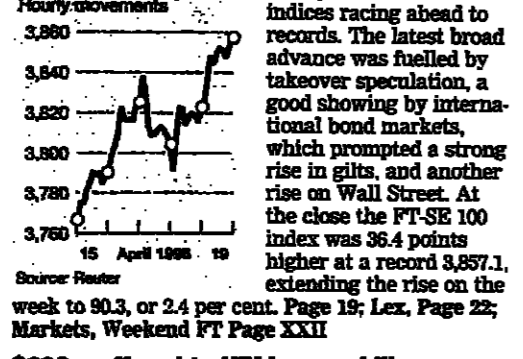
EU regulators clear contraceptive pill of health warning

Oral contraceptives of the kind labelled by the UK government as potentially dangerous have been given qualified clearance by European medicines regulators. They said blood clots caused by oral contraceptives were rare.

Spills in Italian alliances: Big differences emerged in the leadership of Italy's rightwing Freedom Alliance, headed by former premier Silvio Berlusconi, as the campaign for tomorrow's general election closed.

Kohl to speed tax reforms: German chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union said it would accelerate plans for a fundamental reform of the country's income tax system.

FT-SE index closes at record high
UK shares continued their upward spiral yesterday with all the main indices racing ahead to records.



\$600m offered to HIV haemophiliacs: Companies which make blood clotting agents for haemophiliacs offered \$600m to compensate Americans who contracted the HIV virus from their products in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Westpac deal to create largest NZ bank: Westpac Bank of Australia said its NZ\$2.7bn (\$870m) bid for Trust Bank would create New Zealand's largest bank, with combined assets of NZ\$23.6m.

Telecom talks stall: Trade negotiators from the US, Japan, Canada and the European Union failed to resolve differences over a plan to liberalise global telecommunications but there are hopes of progress in ministerial talks this weekend.

US and Japanese airlines in accord: US airline Delta and Japanese carrier ANA agreed to share flights between Tokyo and Los Angeles from September.

Aker chairman resigns: A power struggle at Aker, the Norwegian offshore engineering and cement group, intensified when Gerhard Heiberg resigned as chairman two days after he forced the resignation of chief executive Tom Rund.

Biocompatibles seeks to raise \$250m: Biocompatibles International, the UK medical company floated a year ago, is to raise \$250m (\$76m) in a rights and warrants issue.

UK car production buoyant: Car production in the UK remained buoyant last month in spite of reports, based on confusing data, that output had fallen compared with March last year.

Rugby player wins case against referee: A British rugby union player, paralysed during a scrum collapsed during a game in 1991, won a landmark High Court damages action in London against the match referee.

now tetraplegic, sued Mr Nolan and opposing player Thomas Whitworth for £1m (\$1.52m). Mr Justice Currie found Mr Whitworth had not been to blame. Damages will be assessed later. Page 4

Table with 2 columns: Company Name and Share Price/Change. Includes Aker, Alcoa, Alcoa-Nobel, Anglo Wiggins, Asahi Chemical, BET, BOC, BTR, Biocompatibles Intl, Bristol S West, Clarke Nicolls, Courtauld, GKN, Halifax.

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Middle East ceasefire hopes rise

By Julian Ozanne in Jerusalem, David Gardner in Beirut and Bruce Clark in Moscow

Israeli and pro-Iranian Hizbollah guerrilla leaders yesterday held out the prospect of a ceasefire being agreed this weekend.

But both sides continued to exchange shell and rocket fire across the border between Lebanon and Israel.

World leaders gathered at a summit on nuclear safety in Moscow issued a joint appeal for an immediate ceasefire and arranged a meeting of the foreign ministers of the US, Russia, France and Italy in the Syrian capital Damascus today.

In Tel Aviv Mr Dennis Ross, US President Bill Clinton's peace envoy, met Israeli leaders as Washington joined intensive diplomatic efforts under way in the region by France, Russia and the European Union to reach a halt to the nine days of violence.

Israel and Hizbollah continue shell and rocket attacks

Let the Israelis stop their bombardment seriously and without deceit and they will find the holy warriors will not fire a bullet at settlers in the settlements, let alone a rocket.

Syria said it hoped a ceasefire could be reached "within hours and not days" but Mr Rafik al-Hariri, the Lebanese prime minister, said an agreement could take four or five days.

Mr Hariri said he had begun negotiations with Hizbollah to end its attacks. But a senior Arab official said a call by Hariri for Hizbollah to step up operations against Israel could delay a swift ceasefire agreement.

The official said Iran was using Hizbollah as a lever to try to force the US into direct talks with Tehran and to ease Washington-led international pressure to isolate the Iranian Shia regime.

Mr Hariri also ruled out Lebanon acquiescing to Israel's demand, as presented in a US proposal, that the ceasefire agreement be extended to ban not only attacks on civilians but also attacks on Hizbollah soldiers occupying Lebanon.

What you are asking is to make the life of Israeli soldiers who are occupying Lebanese soil easy," Mr Hariri said. "Nobody will accept that I don't see any government can accept that."

A revival of the July 1993 understandings has won support from Syria, Lebanon, Hizbollah, Russia and the European Union and is the focus of the current Middle East mission of Mr Hervé de Charette, the French foreign minister.

Lebanese trapped in the middle. Bitter harvest of bombardment.

ument signed by all the parties. Before Thursday's deaths, the US backed Israel's demand for a more extensive ceasefire arrangement and snubbed the French initiative, but Washington appeared yesterday to be falling into line with Europe.

UK could block attempt to lift Ulster beef ban

By Caroline Southey in Brussels

The European Commission has indicated it would view sympathetically a request to lift the beef export ban in Northern Ireland, but the British government is resisting any partial removal of the ban.

A senior British official in Brussels said the government was "not keen on regional exceptions" to the ban, arguing that it would be more difficult to secure a total lifting of the ban once it had been partially eased.

Northern Ireland farmers and politicians have been pressing Mr Franz Fischler, EU agriculture commissioner, to lift the ban in the province. They claim there have been fewer cases of BSE - mad cow disease - in Northern Ireland than in mainland Britain.

Mr Fischler has said he would view such a request sympathetically, but that it would have to be made by the UK government.

The British official said that such a request from the government would also suggest that it accepted the legitimacy of the ban. "We believe the ban is not justified on scientific evidence. We are trying to make the political case that there needs to be a move towards lifting the total ban," he said.

However, Mr Douglas Hogg, the British minister of agriculture, has previously argued that grass-fed herds should be excluded from the ban. This would cover a majority of herds in Northern Ireland, as well as a number in the rest of the UK.

Only 1,600 cases of BSE have been recorded in Northern Ireland since November 1988, compared with 180,000 cases in mainland UK.

Mr Alistair MacLaughlin, director-general of the Ulster Farmers' Union, said the reasons for the



Clinton pays respects to war dead ahead of summit

US President Bill Clinton yesterday paid his respects to Russian victims of the Second World War during a visit to St Petersburg.

Mr Clinton (above) reviewed an honour guard as he paid his respects to Russians killed at the siege of Leningrad, the former communist name for the city. The US president made a stopover in St Petersburg on his way to a two-day summit in Moscow on nuclear security

attended by the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations.

At the summit, Russian president Boris Yeltsin backed an international ban on nuclear testing, but said he would not dismantle Russia's test facilities. The summit aims to improve the safety of nuclear reactors and help manage the former Soviet Union's ill-guarded stocks of weapons-grade material.

Multi-billion dollar offer expected for global rights

Murdoch poised to bid for football World Cup finals

By Jimmy Burns and Raymond Snoddy in London

Mr Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation is about to make a multi-billion dollar bid for the world broadcasting rights for the World Cup finals in 2002 and 2006.

The move is the latest challenge to organisations such as the European Broadcasting Union which buy television sports rights on behalf of public service broadcasters such as the BBC.

Late last year, a Murdoch-led consortium bid \$2bn for the European broadcasting rights for all the Olympic games to the year 2008, but the International Olympic Committee accepted a much lower bid, \$1.442bn, from the EBU.

The EBU-led international consortium already has the television rights for the 1998 World Cup and has been engaged in exclusive negotiations for the World Cup finals in 2002 and 2006.

erning body for football, has said it wants to see other proposals and has set a May 15 deadline for them.

Apart from News Corp, the other groups likely to bid include the International Management Group, the sports company headed by Mr Mark McCormack, Ufa, the television subsidiary of the Bertelsmann, the German publisher, and Team, the Luxembourg-based marketing arm for the Champions League run by Uefa, the European football union.

Mr Murdoch would want to try use the digital television systems now being launched all over the world to offer non-stop coverage of all the games and charge for the top matches on a pay-per-view basis.

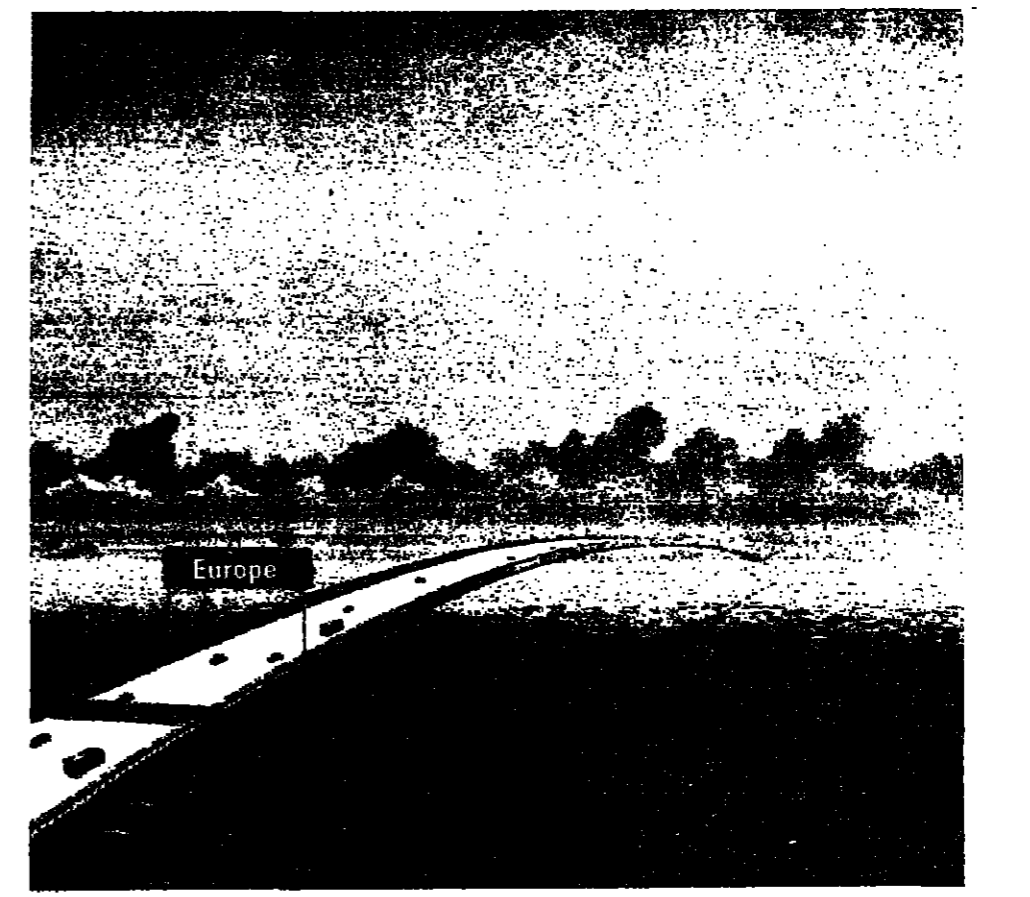
In the UK, however, the government has recently announced that the World Cup is one of eight listed sports events that have to be shown on terrestrial television.

boost TV and marketing income from the World Cup by opening up the bidding for rights.

In a letter dated April 4 to Mr Joseph Blatter, Fifa's general secretary, a copy of which has been made available to the FT, Mr Jack Warner, the president of the American footballing confederation and a Fifa executive committee member, expresses "serious concerns" about Fifa's integrity in the matter of the World Cup contracts.

"The letter is merely to counsel you that many members of the executive committee have repeatedly said that more transparency is needed in this matter and they intend to pursue it vigorously to the end," Mr Warner writes.

The Fifa hierarchy has shown signs recently of responding to this criticism. It has also abandoned its earlier idea of inviting bids for one contract covering marketing and broadcasting rights. The licensee of the broadcasting rights "will be required to co-operate with Fifa and its marketing partner", it says.



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NEWS: INTERNATIONAL

Nuclear folly that exposed a corrupt political system

Dancing slippers lie scattered among broken toys. A picture album is open, nearby lies the first page of a grammar primer, graced by a Lenin portrait. Windows at the kindergarten are shattered, but there is no sign of life. Children's gas masks are here, too, used briefly for 36 hours, before the evacuation began.

Matthew Kaminski argues that the Chernobyl accident helped bring down totalitarian rule

and was nearing retirement from the Soviet interior ministry. He ran his division in Gomel, a district north of Chernobyl, now in Belarus. Early at work that day, he says: "A friend from the plant called at 10am and told me an accident had taken place. He thought we should evacuate. But no news came from Moscow."

stopped the more than five-fold rise in thyroid cancer since then. When the order to move finally came, Mr Sazankov led 15,000 other policemen in securing the 30km closed zone around the plant and evacuating towns further afield. The clean-up, like fighting a war or building a large factory, borrowed heavily from past revolutionary campaigns. Workers came in from across the Soviet Union.

Then grudgingly, he says the reactors were unsafe and the authorities acted irresponsibly. But he adds: "It was not the Soviet Union that was to blame, but the people who held power." Off-spoken, Tanya Oshmarova cannot hold back. Her son Ivan, now 14, spent that April at his grandparents' dacha near Chernobyl. He later joined a national dance troupe. Last year he underwent chemotherapy, which destroyed his bone marrow cancer but claimed his right leg.

Ukrainian doctors expect the jump in children's thyroid cancer to peak only in 2010. The link to other cancers has not been made. A quarter of Belarus and large parts of Ukraine are contaminated, their rich farm lands full of caesium and strontium. No one really knows what the impact might be, so people either deny the risk or live in fear, and often both. The Kremlin in 1970 forced Chernobyl

Fund, an unwieldy and expensive nuclear protection system set up in 1950. Mr Vladimir Danilov played a bit part, too. "I worked on nuclear safety," he says, before giving an uncomfortable laugh. He quit his job at the plant in 1992. He works for the new administration and chooses to live in Kiev rather than Slavutych, the other model town built for Chernobyl workers an hour north of the plant. At his old Fyrypat apartment, the irradiated upholstery from the furniture got torn off and removed, and he wonders by whom. He comes back rarely, each time it seems more barren, he says. Slowly, nature is starting to reclaim the city of the future. Grass went uncut for a decade and trees are coming through the windows. This spring, birds again are migrating back to nest in the surrounding forest. Two old Ukrainian peasants, one blind, sit in a nearby village. About 700 others, mostly elderly, slipped past the military guards and moved back into their wooden houses years ago. They are the only people who live permanently in the zone.

Yeltsin backs worldwide ban on nuclear testing

By Bruce Clark and Chrystie Freeland in Moscow

Russian President Boris Yeltsin yesterday formally backed an international ban on nuclear tests on the opening day of an eight-nation summit which he is hosting in Moscow in an effort to boost his prestige ahead of June presidential elections.

While making the most of the summit as an implicit endorsement of his re-election bid, Mr Yeltsin also insisted that Russia would take the responsibility for safeguarding its nuclear arsenal and re-affirmed his objections to the eastward enlargement of Nato.

France's President Jacques Chirac gave Mr Yeltsin some satisfaction, issuing a joint communique which said that Russia was "an inseparable part of the European security architecture."

not abide by tough terms agreed with the IMF this spring it would jeopardise this month's tranche of its \$10.2bn three-year loan. Russian officials said an IMF delegation in Moscow this week had been privately sending the same message, but a western economist close to the talks said the tough bargaining was a regular feature of the fund's monthly monitoring of Russia's economic performance.

Defence chief may quit after 76 troops die in ambush

By Chrystie Freeland in Moscow

General Pavel Grachev, the Russian defence minister and one of President Boris Yeltsin's most faithful allies, yesterday offered to resign amid mounting criticism of an ambush in Chechnya in which at least 76 Russian servicemen died.

Gen Grachev's resignation offer contrasts sharply with the aggressive rebuttals the minister has made on previous occasions when his army's performance in Chechnya has come under political fire.

Yeltsin, who could be looking for scapegoats for the disastrous Chechen conflict as he prepares to compete in June 16 presidential elections. Chechen separatists ambushed a Russian military convoy on Tuesday. As the reported death toll climbed to yesterday's figure of 76, public criticism of the Russian military for allowing the attack to take place has mounted.

The military leadership is to blame and will be held responsible for what has happened, Mr Yeltsin said, according to the Russian news agency Itar-Tass. "It is a tragedy for Chechnya, for the whole of Russia, for the President."



Brothers in arms: Yeltsin embraces Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the start of the summit yesterday

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

China attracts more investment

Contracted foreign investment in China surged in the first quarter of this year by 86.8 per cent - to \$7.43bn - compared with the same period last year, as businessmen rushed to secure approval for new projects by an April 1 deadline.

US, Japanese airlines in accord

Delta, the US airline, and ANA, a leading Japanese carrier, have agreed to share flights between Tokyo and Los Angeles from September.

Death prompts bank probe

Financial authorities are investigating losses incurred by a Japanese banking unit in Hong Kong after its chief leapt to his death in the territory earlier this week, the unit's parent said yesterday.

Mercedes sets sights on Brazil

Mercedes-Benz, the German cars and trucks group, has joined the growing list of carmakers planning to build vehicles in Brazil with the decision to invest about \$400m on a new factory at Juiz de Fora in Minas Gerais state.

Italian editor steps down

Mr Eugenio Scalfari is to retire from editing La Repubblica, the paper he founded 30 years ago and built into one of Italy's most influential dailies. Mr Scalfari, 72, has been under pressure to step down to let a younger generation take over to compete in the cut-throat and saturated Italian daily newspaper market.

French planning tougher curbs on immigration

By Andrew Jack in Paris

The French government is considering introducing legislation before the summer to toughen controls on immigration, officials said yesterday. The ministry of the interior is working on reform proposals, while stressing in the meantime its commitment to the "firm but humane" application of existing immigration laws.

a time of high unemployment. Even the French government is divided on the issue. Mr Xavier Emmanuelli, minister for humanitarian assistance, said it contained "unacceptable and scandalous" ideas.



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Advertisement for Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund. Includes text: 'GIVE US A STAPLE', 'And don't forget to add your cheque to fund more Macmillan Nurses to help 1,000,000 people living with cancer.', 'Cheque amount £..... made out to 'CRMF (FB)' Please send to: CRMF FREEPOST LONDON SW3 3BR', 'Macmillan APPEAL', 'Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund exists to support people with cancer and their families. Regd. Charity No. 261017'

Handwritten Arabic text: 'صكنا من الامم'

COMPANIES AND FINANCE

QMH to sell a third of its hotels

By Christopher Price and David Blackwell

Queens Moat Houses yesterday put a third of its UK hotels up for sale in order to pay off some of its £1bn of debts. The 25-hotel portfolio, which is understood to carry a price tag in excess of £100m, went on the market as Millennium & Copthorne priced its flotation at more than £400m.

Both prices were at the top of market expectations and were seen as underlining the revival of the UK hotels sector.

Queens Moat Houses, which underwent a £1.3bn restructuring last year after coming close to bankruptcy, said the disposal of its 19 County brand three-star hotels and six four-star Moat Hotels was part of its strategy to focus on a smaller, higher value portfolio.

After the sale, Queens Moat, once the UK's second biggest hotelier, will be left with just 52 hotels. There are another 71 hotels in continental Europe. However, analysts cast doubt on whether the company would be able to sell the portfolio for its asking price. Such a price would equate to £53,000 for each of the 1,700 rooms up for sale, which was described as "aggressive as a starting point for negotiations" by Mr William Barney, head of hotel consultancy at KPMG, the accountants.

This figure compares with the £35,000 a room paid by Regal Hotels for the former Forte White Hart chain, which are also rated mostly three star, last month. However, Queens Moat pointed out that the County brand was of a higher standard than the White Hart chain, and that the portfolio also included the six higher graded Moat House hotels. It claimed the asking price was "extremely realistic in the present environment".

Millennium float values hotels group at £402m

By David Blackwell

Millennium & Copthorne, the hotels group owned by CDL Hotels International, yesterday completed its flotation at the top end of expectations, giving it a market valuation of £402m.

The 64.7m new shares, which were placed with institutions, were priced at 278p, raising £174.5m net of expenses. CDL, part of the Singaporean Hong Leong group, has retained approximately 55 per cent.



Kwek Leng Beng: CDL is a long-term investor, and this business is growing rapidly, so we are happy

business is growing rapidly, so we are very happy. The prospectus includes a sentence that Millennium's articles of association contain provisions "intended to ensure that the company is at all times capable of operating and making decisions independently".

Quarter trading statement earlier this week, Granada last week announced that it was putting up prices at its London hotels by 15 per cent, and this last month reported a 50 per cent rise in 1995 profits. Shares in Macdonald Hotels, floated

last month at 145p, closed yesterday at 313p. Hotel stocks are going through the roof, so the strength of this flotation - understood to be 10 times subscribed - should not be too surprising. The shares are bound to move some way

north of 300p on Thursday. On 1996 pro forma earnings of 19p, the prospective multiple is still only 15.5. While the Millennium & Copthorne hotels are a mixed bag, they do offer the chance of a pure hotel play in the four-star market.

Halifax buys £340m business from Paribas

By Alison Smith, Investment Correspondent

Halifax Building Society is making a further acquisition on its way to flotation, with the purchase of the £340m UK residential mortgage business of Banque Paribas, the French bank.

Bristol & West defends £600m tag

By Roland Aduburgham

Lord Armstrong, chairman of Bristol & West, yesterday defended its proposed £600m takeover by Bank of Ireland against suggestions that the building society was being sold too cheaply.

Lord Armstrong replied that the deal had "not been forced upon us by the necessity of events" and the board unanimously believed it was in the

society's best interests. He called it a "win-win transaction" which would create "a strong and competitive new force in the British retail financial services sector".

unchanged and it was not expected there would be any compulsory redundancies. Lord Armstrong said it was estimated that for investors of two years' standing or more, and with balances of £100 or more, the minimum cash payment would be £500. The average payment would be about £1,000.

Biocompatibles Intl to raise £50m

By Daniel Green

Biocompatibles International, the medical company floated a year ago, is to raise £50m in a rights and warrants issue. The cash raising exercise was accompanied by an optimistic statement on the company's prospects, news of corporate alliances and figures for 1995.

M&G sides with BET against Rentokil

By Tim Burt

M&G Investment Management yesterday gave its public backing to BET as the business services group stepped up its campaign against a £1.1bn takeover bid from Rentokil, the industrial services group.

More tenants help Clarke Nickolls rise

An increase in letting levels and rents helped Clarke, Nickolls & Coombs, the property investment and management group, increase full year pre-tax profits by 25 per cent, from £1.21m to £1.51m, writes Joan Gray.

Nikko Securities lifts forecast

Nikko Securities yesterday cited a strengthening stock market as the reason for an increase in forecast earnings for the year to the end of March.

Redland duo told to publish

Both Redland and Ennemix yesterday accepted a ruling by the Takeover Panel instructing them to make available to the other a breakdown of the valuation figures of Ennemix assets each has offered following Redland's bid.

Company	Turnover (£m)	Pre-tax profit (£m)	EPS (£)		Current dividend (£)	Date of payment	Dividends		Total for year	Total last year
			1995	1994			1995	1994		
Biocompatibles Intl	3.75 (1.5)	0.88 (0.73)	21.25 (+)	16.66 (+)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clarke Nickolls	6.95 (6.37)	1.51 (1.21)	0.221	0.18	0.15	July 24	0.1	0.27	0.2	0.2
Overton Land	3.1 (3.98)	0.133	0.052	0.18 (0.07)	0.15	-	-	-	-	-
Jacks (William)	87.9 (74.5)	0.82 (0.75)	2.59 (4.4)	1	1	July 4	1	1.75	1.5	1.2
Singhby (R)	13.6 (12.5)	0.442 (0.344)	33.3 (23.8)	12	12	July 3	9	1.75	1.75	1.2
United Assurances	5.86 (5.8)	0.857 (0.577)	32.8 (58.2)	4	4	May 28	6.667	8	8.667	8.667
Valian	1.07 (0.81)	0.055 (0.030)	2.887 (+)	0.58 (+)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment Trusts	NAV (£)	NAV (£)	NAV (£)	NAV (£)	NAV (£)	NAV (£)	NAV (£)	NAV (£)	NAV (£)	NAV (£)
Emerging Mkts Country	55.41 (48.96)	0.323 (0.003)	0.481 (0.005)	0.4	0.4	-	-	-	-	-

Earnings shown basic. Dividends shown net. Figures in brackets are for corresponding period. (+) increased capital. (V) other exceptional credit. (M) share stock. (E) equivalent after allowing for scrip issue.

Gold price finds support

Phytopharm to raise £11.9m

Phytopharm, which makes drugs from non-plant-based medicines, said it would raise £11.9m in money, net of expenses, by floating a quarter of the company. It announced a placing price of 175p a share, valuing the company at £54.1m.

Vision placing as losses rise

Vision Group yesterday announced increased interim pre-tax losses of £285,000, against £688,000, and said it had raised £5.1m via a placing of 1.55m new shares at 277p to fund increased output.

Ralph Sharp resurfaces

Mr Ralph Sharp, who resigned earlier this month as managing director of Archer, the listed Lloyd's agency, has resurfaced as managing director of UNUM's operations at the 300-year-old insurance market.

William Jacks drops 22%

William Jacks, the car distributor 70 per cent owned by Johan Holdings, the Malaysian conglomerate, saw full-year pre-tax profits dip 22 per cent to £520,000. Turnover on continuing operations climbed 18 per cent to £37.2m.

Sanderson Bramall rises 21p

Shares in Sanderson Bramall yesterday jumped 21p to a new high of 296p after the motor group reported improved performance from its car dealership, used car and after sales service divisions, ending the first quarter well ahead of budget.

Active Imaging joins Aim

Active Imaging, a developer of computer imaging products, is joining the Aim through a placing of 4.9m ordinary shares at 112p which values the company at £50.5m.

Strong debut for OTE shares

OTE, Greece's state telecoms monopoly, made an impressive debut on the Athens stock exchange yesterday, attaining the maximum 8 per cent daily rise permitted by bourse authorities.

Nikko Securities lifts forecast

Nikko Securities yesterday cited a strengthening stock market as the reason for an increase in forecast earnings for the year to the end of March. Recurring profit - before extraordinary items and tax - was expected to have reached ¥65bn (£392m) for the year, against a forecast last autumn of ¥50bn.

Redland duo told to publish

Both Redland and Ennemix yesterday accepted a ruling by the Takeover Panel instructing them to make available to the other a breakdown of the valuation figures of Ennemix assets each has offered following Redland's bid.

Handwritten note: 500,000 shares

COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

WEEK IN THE MARKETS Gold price finds support

The gold market found support yesterday afternoon as the end of a week in which the bears had seemed to be getting a firm grip.

In the morning the London Bullion Market price slipped below the psychologically important \$390-a-ounce level, touching a low of \$389.75, and there was talk of the bears mounting a major assault after lunch.

But few traders were prepared to suggest that the market was out of the woods. They're going to keep it under pressure," said one, referring to the speculators who had been underpinning the price.

London Metal Exchange base metal contracts were also mostly under pressure, notably aluminium, which ended \$37 down on the week at \$1,561.50 a tonne for the three months delivery as large additions to exchange warehouse stocks continued.

Technical analysis said the market had become oversold near-term and a correction towards \$394 an ounce was on the cards.

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BASE METALS LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Prices from Arranged Metal Centre)

PRECIOUS METALS continued GOLD COMEX (100 Troy oz; \$/tray oz)

GRAINS AND OIL SEEDS WHEAT LCE (\$/tonne)

SOFTS COCOA LCE (\$/tonne)

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK LIVE CATTLE CME (40,000 lbs; cents/lb)

ENERGY CRUDE OIL NYMEX (\$/barrel)

PRECIOUS METALS LONDON BULLION MARKET (Prices supplied by N M Rothschild)

WORLD BOND PRICES

MARKET REPORT By Samer Iskandar in London and Lisa Branstetter in New York

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

US INTEREST RATES

BOND YIELDS AND OPTIONS

FT ACTUARIES FIXED INTEREST INDICES

UK GILT PRICES

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MarketEye logo and contact information

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Saturday April 20 1996

Getting away from it all

Kenneth Clarke has so much to look forward to as he boards a plane to Washington this morning to attend the International Monetary Fund's spring get-together...

tax revenues from a structural one. The bulk of the £2.2bn overshoot was due to lower than expected tax revenues...

Revenues from VAT, in particular, have been disappointing the Treasury for several years now, for reasons which seem to have little to do with either the pace or composition of economic growth...

Modest giveaways

Given the uncertainty involved, a compensatory fiscal tightening would probably be an over-reaction, not to mention a political impossibility...

This argument is further strengthened by recent evidence of a recovery in consumer demand, at least in the service sector...

Taken alongside the recent signs of life in the housing market, and the continued rapid growth in broad money, the survey suggests that Mr Clarke may not even get the consolation of a further interest rate cut.

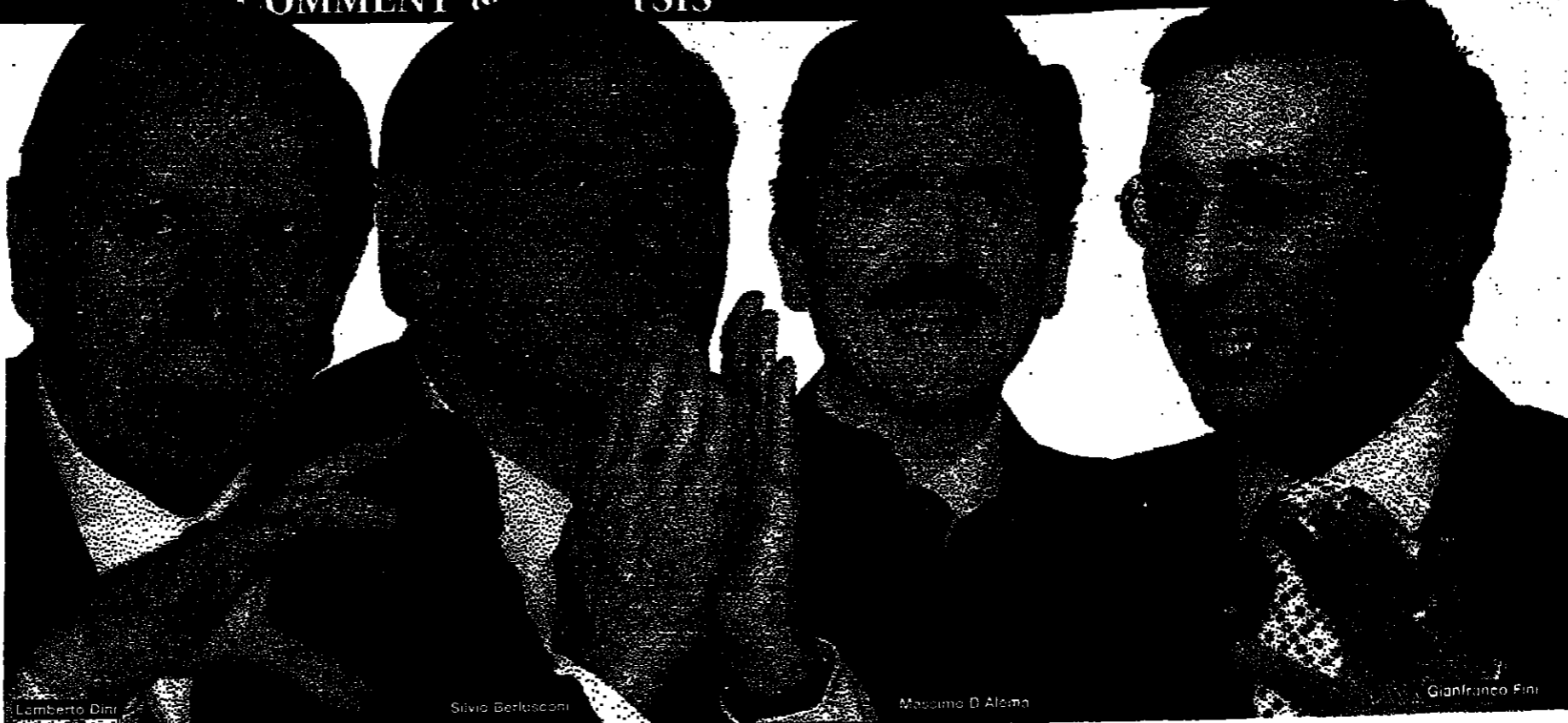
True, the manufacturing sector is still languishing. Mr Clarke might argue that he needed to reduce interest rates again to kick-start this side of the economy...

The inflation data for March contained little suggestion of an upsurge in price pressures. But nor, disappointingly, did it indicate that inflation was now safely on the way down...

Growth pause

Mr Clarke claims, with increasing frequency, that he will only cut taxes when the country can afford it. The suspicion, however, must be that he will use the same arguments as last year to defend an even larger package of pre-election tax cuts in November...

It is notoriously difficult to distinguish a cyclical deterioration in growth from a structural one...



An olive branch to the right

A new alliance aims to end the demonisation of the left in Italian politics with victory in Sunday's general election, says Robert Graham

The Roman aristocracy may be confused how to vote in tomorrow's Italian general election, but they still know how to give a good party. This was evident when Contessa Donatella Pecci Blunt threw open her magnificent 16th-century palace...

The gala occasion was to wind up the election campaign of her old friend Mr Lamberto Dini, the caretaker prime minister who has formed his own small party, Italian Renewal...

The real danger to Italian democracy, he added, was the National Alliance (AN) of Mr Gianfranco Fini - the main partner of Mr Berlusconi...

well, alone, at 8 per cent. Such polls do not include almost one third of the electorate who are undecided after an uninspiring campaign. Moreover, the margin of error makes confident prediction difficult...

Given such uncertainty, the financial markets have been sanguine throughout the campaign. The lira has even strengthened on a combination of the Berlusconi alliance being unlikely to win an outright victory and the country's economic fundamentals continuing to improve...

In the March 1994 general election, Mr Berlusconi's Forza Italia movement successfully filled the political vacuum left by the collapse of the Christian Democrat and Socialist parties...

However, Mr Berlusconi no longer represents the new, and is currently on trial for corruption. He has failed to resolve the conflict of interest

Olive Tree. Mr Dini has a proven track record in office which risks undermining Mr Prodi...

The centre-left has scored during the campaign by looking more purposeful and sober. Mr Berlusconi and Mr Fini have, in contrast, lost credibility for making rash promises on job creation and tax cuts...

Another potential ally is Mr Bossi's Northern League. But here both alliances seem determined to avoid the kind of blackmail exercised on the formation of government by the Catalans in Spain...

Indeed, if the elections produce the expected close result, it is quite possible to envisage two scenarios. The first would find the two alliances getting round the table to put together a grand coalition...

Such scenarios merely underline that this election will not provide a quick answer as to how Italy's next government will be formed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

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Global focus will be on the Greenwich observatory in heralding millennium

From Mr Richard Ormond. Sir, Christopher Price's well-balanced piece on Greenwich's millennium plans ("Time is against fundisers for the millennium", April 13) neglects to mention the role of the National Maritime Museum and, more important, the Old Royal Observatory in the commemorations...

acres of Greenwich Park, Greenwich has a spectacular ready-made site of international repute for millennium celebrations. Since the millennium officially begins for the world on the prime meridian in the courtyard of the observatory, the global focus will be on that historic building when the millennium arrives...

Maintaining integrity of manager and message

From Ms Yvonne Bennion. Sir, Lucy Kallaway is right to applaud the findings of the Harvard Business Review - that the most meaningful communication at work is between employees and their immediate supervisors...

Managers at all levels who "tell it like it is" win trust, and help build better understanding of a business among employees. Managers who regard communication as a crude PR exercise risk losing their integrity as well as people's goodwill...

These issues have to be managed strategically at the top, not muddled through piecemeal in semi-detached units. Communication with employees is more than a Gradgrindian exercise in the dissemination of "facts"...

No need to be disparaging

From Mr John McCulloch. Sir, It wasn't necessary for Gerard Baker ("Letter from Tokyo", April 13/14) to be so disparaging about Japanese television broadcasting in his lead-in to what was, in the end, an article with some good points on the latest embarrassment to corporate Japan in the form of the TBS/Aom Shimrikyo scandal...

Too many lawyers on board

From Mr Anthony O.R. Mitchell. Sir, The recent report by a prominent legal firm in London to the Lloyd's validation steering group is, I trust, the last of many hurdles Lloyd's will have to jump before the final Lloyd's settlement offer will become acceptable to most of Lloyd's Names...

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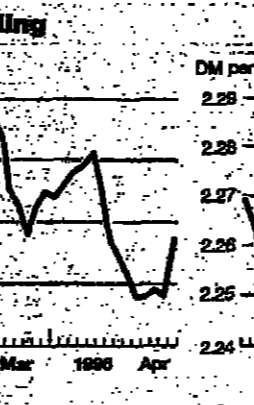
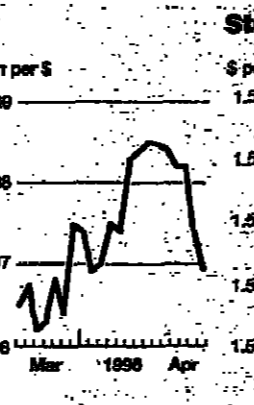
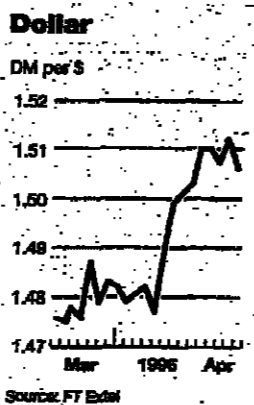
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MARKETS REPORT

Dollar slips

By Philip Gawth

The dollar was yesterday unable to capitalise on the Bundesbank's interest rate cut on Thursday and finished the week lower against both the D-Mark and yen.



yan, from ¥170.5. The lira performed fairly steadily ahead of the election tomorrow, closing at 11,042 from 11,040.

climb a steep uphill of heavy, overweight dollar positions. The market is basically positioned for a stronger dollar.

into new territory. It is a slow, painful drive of the dollar that I am expecting.

Japan, where short rates had had to fall below one per cent to stimulate the economy, might be an appropriate analogy for what Germany needs.

POUND SPOT FORWARD AGAINST THE POUND

Table with columns: Apr 19, Closing mid-point, Change on day, Bid/offer spread, Day's mid, One month, Three months, One year, Bank of England.

DOLLAR SPOT FORWARD AGAINST THE DOLLAR

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Plain



سكنا من الالهي

Weekend FT



Plainclothes royals on parade

In the first of a series on European monarchs, Christian Tyler asks how these family firms will survive the millennium

The view from the Lord Chamberlain's window was blocked by a slab-sided Baltic ferryboat which, from a nearby quayside, towered over the delicate Amalienborg palace. In the square below, the Queen of Denmark's guards ambled back and forth in pairs, gossiping, their rifles casually cradled. Images such as these remind the visitor accustomed to the pomp of the British royal house how small and informal the Continental monarchies have become. Informal they are, certainly, but they are also jealous of their position and dignity. And they are perpetually conscious of the balance they must strike in order to survive.

For Queen Elizabeth II, who is 70 tomorrow and is the longest reigning of the seven European monarchs, the view from Buckingham Palace may be a lot grander. It is also a lot grimmer.

This week Elizabeth's second son, Andrew, was divorced from his extravagant duchess, Charles, her heir, is in the process of negotiating his divorce

from Princess Diana. Her third son, Edward, is unmarried, and only her more discreetly divorced daughter, Anne, retains the mantle of dignity. In spite of all this, the succession may be safe. Yet the British monarchy, once the most secure in Europe, is staggering under the accumulated weight of scandal, rumour and public disaffection.

Other European royal houses have had their scandals, sometimes far worse than anything experienced by the House of Windsor. And yet in none of those countries - Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden and Norway - is the monarchy being asked to justify its existence at the end of the second millennium.

Every constitutional monarchy has similar problems and there is a surprising degree of consensus among the continentals on how to cope.

Today's plainclothes royals, especially those with long experience, have to overcome the temptation to impose their views of the nation's needs over the policies of the elected government. They have to maintain family discipline in

an age when other parents seem unwilling to do so. They have to live in a style that distinguishes them, but not lavishly. They have to get close to their people, but not too close, and they have to cope with an increasingly intrusive press. Finally, they have to arm themselves against the possibility that nature will deal them a genetic bad hand and give them heirs unwilling or unfit for the task.

Over the next six weeks the Weekend FT will be visiting each of these countries to examine what kind of contract it is that allows the anachronistic hereditary principle to survive in parliamentary democracies.

The answer for Santiago Carrillo, former head of the Spanish Communist party, was political expediency. His decision to support King Juan Carlos after General Franco's death was ideologically unsound and supremely pragmatic. "The question was not whether we chose between a monarchy and a republic," he says now. "We chose between democracy and dictatorship."

The civil war veteran, who

had dismissed Franco's royal successor as a puppet and an imbecile, dubbing him "Juan Carlos the Brief," has had to eat his words. The king not only created a democracy but faced down an attempted military coup, and retired into the background once democracy looked secure.

Why people in such "republican" countries as Sweden tolerate a royal family is more a question of psychology than politics, according to Björn Samuelson, an MP of the far left in Stockholm. "All I know is that they are making very good PR for themselves."

These royal heads of state are no longer monarchs in the original meaning of the word. They scarcely even deserve the title of "king" or "queen"; few wear crowns or go through coronations. They have transmuted themselves into what another Swedish parliamentarian described as "a kind of hereditary presidency." "And why not?" this MP added. "It may be unnatural but the alternative may be worse."

If they are presidents, they are presidents whose authority relies not only on birth, but on

mystique, tradition and good example, palace officials say. Their strongest card is that they are not tarnished by a political record. They are the focus, as in the Low Countries, of a public need that politicians can never satisfy.

If they are wise they will take care, as in Spain, the Netherlands or Norway, not to become identified with any social set. If they are clever they will look at the longer term - it is there where their heirs will have to live.

That is why in Sweden it was told that if King Carl XVI Gustaf a dull king - ran for president he would probably get it; why the speaker of the Danish parliament said of Queen Margrethe, "She does the job better than I could"; and why a young Social Democrat MP in the Netherlands could declare, "If the Dutch wanted a president, they would probably choose the Queen."

But the hereditary system has a serious flaw: biology. "If the genes work well, fine. But it is a risky business being dependent on your genes," said Olof Ruhn of the University of Stockholm's political science

department. In the days of absolute rulers, genetic weaknesses were tolerated. But would the protection of his court have been enough to save the insane 18th century King Christian VII of Denmark in the television age?

Biology also means sex and marriage. Where these can have constitutional implications it is not surprising that press and television should take an interest. The continental press may be more restrained than the British tabloids, yet photographers are not afraid to chase after royal girlfriends or boyfriends. "It's legitimate because of the succession," said Norway's leading palace-watcher, Kjell Arnes Totland of the gossip weekly *See and Hear*.

Continental editors are afraid of losing readers for gross invasions of privacy, so tend to report only public misdemeanours. They do dig

for evidence in those countries where there are rumours of homosexuality and illegitimacy. If they are more indulgent about the affairs of their monarchs and the escapades of their crown princess - the car crashes, nightclubbing, affairs with models - it is because, they say, their societies are more open, their public less puritan and the families more "normal" than in Britain.

Perhaps in a small country self-restraint is easier. King Olaf V of Norway, grandfather of the present King Harald, used to say: "I have four million security guards." Journalists confirm that Norwegians do not ring up the newspapers if they see the royals out shopping, or try to sell pictures of them, as might happen in Britain. There are signs, however, that even in Scandinavia self-restraint is getting weaker

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Continued on Page II



Joe Rogaly

The poor? What poor?

It's time for less talk from politicians on poverty and more action

There is no end to the wonders of British politics. The working class has been abolished. The left has been airbrushed out, to be replaced by the centre. An attempt has been made to excise the poor from our minds, as with a Soviet encyclopaedia.

These are substantial achievements. The first credit goes to John Prescott, the deputy leader of the Labour party, proud of his origins as a seafaring ferrier, has declared himself middle-class. He is right: an MP's salary places him or her above the average. The second miracle was accomplished by Mr Prescott's boss, the New Labour party, Tony Blair declared in New York, was a party of the centre. Hey presto!

The third trick is turning out to be a trifle more awkward. Most of us, living comfortably or nearly so, squirm a little when the talk turns to poverty. We do not wish to believe our eyes as we pass beggars in the street. We forget the anecdotal evidence of squalor in our city centres. It is fashionable, when confronted by poverty statistics, to analyse them to death.

It was therefore refreshing to hear Robin Cook say on Wednesday night that "Labour must speak for the poor". The shadow foreign sec-

retary and deep-cover advocate of the party's more radical thoughts, went further. "We understand that if we accept a society that does not help those who are vulnerable and weak, then it will not help us when we are vulnerable and weak," he said.

Mr Cook, who is the cleverest politician in his party, and just possibly the smartest in all Westminster, was, however, imprudent. He let our imaginations soar. His speech invited us to question the rate of income support under a Labour government. Very well then, we ask, how much?

Labour does not provide the answer, but I will. It will be the same as it would be under a Conservative government. New Labour is either deceiving everyone or it has dropped Old Labour's idea of redistributing wealth and income. I do not think Mr Blair is engaged in a huge campaign of deception.

The most potent pressure group on behalf of the poor is the Child Poverty Action Group. Its latest edition of *Poverty: the facts*, out this week, is grist for those of us who cannot shake off the impression that since 1979 the rich have become much richer, which is self-evident,

while the poor have become poorer, which is in the process of being explained away. The very proposition is rejected by the government. Peter Lilley acknowledges that there are people on low incomes, but asserts that under the Conservatives benefits have increased in real terms.

These are tangled thickets, even for a successful secretary for social security. The CPAG

I do not think Mr Blair is engaged in a huge campaign of deception

observes that many more people live on or below the income support level: 14 per cent of the population in 1979 rising to 24 per cent in 1992. The figure would be higher still if Mr Cook's implied wish to see welfare payments increased came true. Another broad brush stroke depicts people on incomes less than half the average, housing costs excluded. This rose from 9 per cent of the population when the Tories came to power to a quarter now.

Such arithmetic does not move Mr Lilley. He points out

that expenditure statistics show the bottom fifth of the population having access to more refrigerators, telephones, cars, washing machines and the like than the same segment did 17 years ago. Anyhow, greater equality is not a current Conservative objective. The CPAG and one-nation Tory proposition that poverty is relative is dismissed.

The challenge is to the concept of "the poor" as a generic term. This argument is pursued on several fronts. People are broke at different times of their lives: when students, when unemployed, in old age. Families scrape along by running down savings. The self-employed may fall to report their income to the inland revenue.

Steven Webb of the Institute of Fiscal Studies has suggested that a half of those in the bottom decile of income in 1991-92 were out of it within two years. There is no single explanation: divorce, marriage, the arrival of children, children leaving home, and other changes of circumstance affect an individual's living standards.

Labour could respond in one of two ways. It might say that it seeks greater actual equality, a narrowing of the gap between those on top incomes and those at the bottom. To do that it must increase taxation, particularly of higher in-

comes, and spend more on benefits and subsidies. New Labour will not allow itself to think such thoughts.

The remaining option is to accept the analyses that break up the broad statistics. Instead of making speeches about helping the poor, look to specific groups. Promise further increases to the very old on state pensions. Level off benefits for all single parents and increase payments to never-married mothers under 25. Give them child-care vouchers and encourage them to seek work when the toddler reaches nursery-school age.

Those are national policies. Hard-core poverty is, however, best tackled at the local level, in designated parts of city centres. Here, money alone may not be the answer. Social workers might be deployed to assist broken families whose remaining members are either unemployed or in long-term unemployment. Teachers, the police, town planners, local businesses all need to be involved. Parish-level knowledge is essential. Local regeneration schemes may work, sort of, some of the time.

There is no other solution on offer. If Mr Cook and New Labour want to help the vulnerable and weak, they must strengthen local social services, even to the extent of throwing a few coins and the odd note into the hat.

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THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

PERSPECTIVES

The Nature of Things

Fungus growth in spotlight

Clive Cookson looks at how mycology has moved from amateur fungal forays to a serious science

A new branch of biology was born officially 100 years ago in a Yorkshire pub. The inaugural meeting of the British Mycological Society in the Londesborough Arms, Selby, marked the point at which the study of fungi moved into the sphere of professional science.

Fungi play a Jekyll and Hyde role in human health. They are responsible for a large and increasing - but still little recognised - amount of illness. Doctors are just beginning to think of fungal diseases as hidden killers, and the fast-growing market for antifungal drugs is worth about £3bn a year worldwide.

Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club based at the Hereford Museum, whose curator Henry Graves Bull organised the first "foray among the funguses" in October 1867. The fungus festival soon became an annual event, attracting large numbers of botanists from Britain and abroad to "ransack the woods" of Herefordshire for interesting species.

meetings were designed to replace the Hereford foray and "by avoiding the weak points of its predecessor, which were mainly confined to excess hospitality, prove at least equally attractive and instructive to mycologists".

damp of autumn, the traditional fungus hunting season. (An autumn foray will take place in Yorkshire.) "The cold weather was disastrous from the normal point of view of collecting lots of large fungi," says Roy Walling of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.

fungi. Indeed, mycologists believe the world of fungi contains more undiscovered species than any other group of organisms, including insects. A hundred years ago, biologists considered fungi to be part of the plant kingdom but today they are recognised as a taxonomic kingdom in their own right: mycetes.

oceans. "Thirty years ago a textbook said there were no marine fungi," he says. "Now we know of 600 species." In spite of the enormous diversity, the vast majority of fungi share one characteristic - a filamentous feeding system known as mycelium.



Paul Gadsby: expansion of the business relies on R adjusting to new market conditions - especially foreign competition

Minding Your Own Business

Making baskets for all seasons

Clive Fewins visits a family which is looking forward more than most to the picnic time of year

Paul Gadsby will not forget the night of January 29 1995 in a hurry. Soon after midnight, he heard from the National Rivers Authority that there was going to be a flood. Three hours later, his business was under a foot of water.

But the episode meant that Gadsby - who, as well as being managing director, is sole salesman for the 18-person business - lost a lot of valuable time during the weeks when he had to run the business from home and salvage the undamaged stock from his warehouse.

1980s. By developing new markets gradually, the Gadsbys overcame several setbacks. These included the closure of many basket work departments in blind schools that they had supplied, and the loss of passing trade when the road where they are based, a former holiday route, was superseded by the M5.

its own staff. But the key to making profits lay in importing, and successful trading in bulk orders. Today, about 80 per cent of the 100,000 willow hampers that the company supplies each year are imported. Most come from Poland, Romania and Madeira.

imported baskets." He feels that these, while just over half the price of British baskets, are more than half as good in quality and represent a good buy for most customers. But he adds: "There will always be a demand for the British ones because they are usually made from better quality willow and we insist on a very high standard of finish."

Letter from Tokyo

Two English gentlewomen and a cause

William Dawkins reports on belated apologies for Japan's lepers

Nothing more clearly symbolises Japan's tradition of concealing the unsightly than its attitude to lepers. More than 40 years after most industrialised countries ended mandatory quarantine for lepers following the discovery of a treatment for the disease, Japan's 5,800 lepers are still shut up in remote colonies, some with excruciatingly euphemistic names such as Garden of Fulfillment.

with humanity and respect. Hannah Riddell was in her element running her Kaishun Hospital for lepers in Kumamoto, perhaps winning prestige and recognition that would have been denied in Britain. By Lady Boyd's account, she governed with the affectionate firmness of a British public school matron.

Hannah Riddell set out for Japan to make a career rather than to save souls

still remembered warmly by the locals who recently formed a memorial society to her and her niece. Ada Wright carried on the good work after Riddell's death in 1922. This is recognition of just how important were the two Englishwomen in destroying some pre-1914 prejudices.

Continued from Page 1

Europe's plainclothes royals on parade

as press competition intensifies. What, then, are the rules which European monarchies have evolved in the democratic, television age for ensuring a succession?

representation and coalitions are the rule, the monarch has a greater influence in government making - except, perhaps, in Sweden since a 1974 reform - than the fine print implies. Thus, King Juan Carlos has discreetly made his mark on the current political negotiations in Spain.

survived all the troubles besetting the House of Windsor. The third rule is to maintain a modest style of life, even if, like Beatrix, you are one of the richest women in Europe. (This Queen does not, however, ride a bicycle.) Conspicuous consumption, especially at the taxpayers' expense, is a hostage to fortune.

press that underneath they are "serious". The next rule is to strike a balance: to be above the crowd but not aloof from it, as one head of the royal household put it. This may be more difficult in Britain, which is seen as a class-ridden society in which the queen is the apex of the social pyramid.

Another said: "Television is the wrong way for the king to reach the public. If it is too serious, it becomes political. If it is light, it just looks frivolous." Apparently after this injunction, Juan Carlos, once the most approachable king in Europe, has stopped giving "audiences" to journalists.

and unmarried, is still regarded as unready. Belgians say they would prefer his sister Astrid, married with children to an Austrian archduke. The gadabout crown prince of the Netherlands, Willem-Alexander, is said to be causing concern at the palace while his opposite number in Copenhagen, Prince Frederik, has admitted in a newspaper interview his struggle to develop enthusiasm for the job that awaits him.

There are signs that the British royal house, once so dismissive of its "middle-class" cousins on the European mainland, is taking some of the lessons to heart. The Queen's decision to start paying income tax, to fund the repairs to Windsor Castle after the fire, to travel sometimes in an ordinary railway carriage, to give up sole use of the royal yacht, to stop subsidising her wayward daughter-in-law, are all straws in the wind.

spiritual and moral values which the churches can no longer disseminate. There are signs that the British royal house, once so dismissive of its "middle-class" cousins on the European mainland, is taking some of the lessons to heart.

Chess No 1126: 1 Bst, f Kd5 2 Rd1+ c 1... Kd3 2 Rd7... and 3 R or N mates work it out.

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PERSPECTIVES

The tiger – vanishing with barely a whimper

A wonderful creature is about to become extinct. Michael Woods reports

I have just seen a wild tiger. It is probably the only one I will ever see because, unless the world acts soon, all but an elusive handful of these cats will have disappeared.

This beautiful animal, the wonderful creature of nursery fiction and poetry, the awe-inspiring kingly of myth, legend and religion, is about to become extinct. But how is it that the largest of the big cats has reached this state and what, if anything, can be done to ensure its recovery?

Half a century ago there were between 25,000 and 30,000 tigers in Asia. According to *Killed for a Cure*, a report on the world-wide trade in tiger parts published in 1994 by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN) this number has fallen to between 5,000 and 7,400.

The total number of tiger subspecies has been reduced from eight to five and these are scattered around 14 Asian countries, including the two most densely populated countries in the world, China and India. Malaysia has about 600 as does Indonesia, Bangladesh has 300, Vietnam and Russia 200 each and the other countries have smaller numbers still. Only India has a substantial number with more than 60 per cent of the world population.

Not surprisingly this is where tiger conservation has tended to be concentrated. It was here that Project Tiger was launched in 1973 when it seemed that the animal was spiralling into extinction at a time when tiger hunting and the export of skins was still legal.

Indira Gandhi, India's former prime minister, embraced the cause – giving it political will, and backing it with several million dollars. The tiger was protected and Project Tiger reserves were established. It was a success and, for a while, it appeared to have worked. But, as Peter Jackson, chairman of the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, said, the real crisis emerged in 1992. "Tigers which I knew well in Ranthambhore National Park, simply disappeared until half the known tigers had gone."

Ranthambhore is a beautiful park of open plains and dense woodland in a complex of rolling hills and deep gorges. Here there are herds of spotted and sambar deer living alongside antelope and wild boar while peacocks strut and cry among the trees and along the lake shores.

Even with only half its tigers, 80 per cent of those taking game drives still see the striped cats which are remarkably relaxed here and do not crouch in the undergrowth as they do elsewhere. Sadly I was not one of the lucky ones. I did not see a single tiger and, in spite of the occasional pug mark pressed into the dust, it almost felt as if every one had now disappeared in the tiger's new crisis – to feed the demand for traditional Chinese medicine.

Almost every part of the tiger is traditionally used by the people of China, Japan and Korea and to some extent other Asian countries, to cure a variety of ailments. The demand for tiger bone appears to be

the main force which drives up the price in the commercial market. Last year, in India alone, parts from 50 tigers were discovered. According to Jackson the number can be multiplied by a factor of five or six to reach the true figure.

In Burma, it is still not illegal to kill tigers. Burma, Laos (Lao PDR) and Cambodia are not signatories to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. But even some countries which are only pay lip service to its requirements. Japan, a major tiger part consumer, has no legislation to prevent domestic sales. Customs officials either refuse to admit that a trade in tiger parts exists or lack resources to do more.

In 1994 an undercover operation disclosed that in Chinese communities in London, Manchester and Birmingham, 50 per cent of traditional pharmacists had tiger part products in stock. There have been convictions in Britain as a result.

As the countries of South East Asia experience booming economies, so traditional Chinese medicine becomes more affordable to their peoples. And, far from turning

Eco-tourism is one way in which money can be put where it is required

away from such traditions, with increasing economic strength comes a rejection of western influence in favour of a return to traditional values. The market is vast and trying to influence such deeply held beliefs seems all but impossible.

However, there are glimmers of light. At the end of last year, Judy Mills, co-author with Peter Jackson of *Killed for a Cure*, helped to organise an international symposium in Hong Kong which brought together wildlife conservationists and specialists in traditional Chinese medicine from throughout the region to discuss the sustainable use of wildlife. She sees persuasion rather than censure as the way forward.

In March, at a meeting in Hanoi, tiger specialists from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, where WWF-international claims that tigers are disappearing at the rate of one a week, drafted plans for action to save their tigers by finding out more about them and by trying to suppress international trade. Against enormous local opposition a group is trying to do much the same thing in Korea where the Siberian sub-species of tiger is at risk and where the size of its population is small but unknown.

A much larger number of Siberian tigers still hangs on across the border in the Russian Far East. WWF suggests that the rate of poaching here has slowed and it is

funding a big effort to census the animals. The signs are not good, however, in this remote Russian area.

To add to the tiger's problems, large areas of forest are disappearing in Malaysia while in Thailand tiger habitat is becoming increasingly fragmented by roads, dams and human settlements. In India, where elections are to take place shortly, there are national pressures on existing tiger reserves from oil companies as well as demands from local communities for grazing and fuel wood.

Ranthambhore is a perfect example of the agricultural pressures. It stands as an island of wilderness in an area of impoverishment. One evening, as we reached the gates, we found a group of people hiding around a fire made of wood confiscated from local people. "It will make no difference," said my guide, "they will be back tomorrow cutting more." Valmik Thapar's Ranthambhore Foundation has been working since 1987 to improve the situation for those living around its boundaries. Its schemes include the provision of buffaloes to reduce the number of dairy cows villagers need to keep, tree planting schemes and primary health care programmes.

Corbett National Park, named after the famous hunter of man-eaters, is much more fortunate than Ranthambhore for it has a buffer of forest around it which acts as a shock absorber. I stayed in the Claridges Corbett Hideaway, a new and comfortable safari camp on the edge of the park just a few minutes by Jeep from the gate. But it was on an evening when I slept in a bungalow in the core area of the park that I saw my tiger.

It was not a pleasant experience. Mounted on elephants we swayed quietly through the forest to where a male tiger had killed a sambar a few days before. It was still there and as we approached, growled from deep cover. The elephants milled round it so that everyone could see the animal and then, as it began to get dark, one without pressed his elephant closer. The tiger charged, leaping out. Fortunately it was time to leave.

This offensive spectacle was not how I wanted to see a tiger nor the way in which a Project Tiger reserve should be treating its most precious charges.

Fortunately not all tiger watching is so grisly and, especially at Ranthambhore where the animals are so relaxed, it can be a highly enjoyable experience.

Eco-tourism is one way in which money can be channelled to where it is required. At present park fees are laughably low and little opportunity is taken to inform the western visitor of the plight of the tiger. An American I talked to knew that tigers were endangered but had no idea why. She was not untypical of the rest of the park visitors at Ranthambhore. Yet every foreign visitor could be an ambassador for the tiger on their return home.

Moreover, organisations such as Care for the Wild have found that the tiger is a huge generator of donations. And those who give not

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There can be no denying that David Livingstone, Scotland's famous missionary, was a disaster at the job. Over many years he made just one convert, who lapsed after six months. Livingstone went on to become a famous explorer: he was not always good at that either – he got the source of the Nile wrong, and he did not realise that the Zambezi was non-navigable (he had managed to be by-passed the Cabora Bassa gorge).

He was a poor leader of men, and his marriage to the wretched Mary Moffat, whom he met in her father's mission on the edge of the Kalahari – you can still see the stump of the almond tree under which he proposed – is hardly an endorsement of his qualities as a family man. She died a lonely alcoholic.

But he was a Victorian hero, and, surely, deservedly so, which is the point which emerges triumphantly from an excellent exhibition at London's National Portrait Gallery. More than that, and unlike other African missionaries (whose role in the continent has been much debated), he became a mythic hero for the latter half of the Victorian age. In spite of his recent biographers, that reputation remains secure.

He was a classic Samuel Smiles example of early-Victorian self-help, emerging from the obscurity of a Lanarkshire cotton mill. After the barren years as a missionary, he determined to open up the African continent – which, it is hard to remember today, was as mysterious as the moon is to us – to "Commerce, Christianity and Civilisation", in no particular order.

He made these brave and lengthy expeditions for Christ, yes, but also to expose Africa

Africa's 'dreadful old fogie'

J.D.F. Jones considers a Victorian hero



to trade, and to (preferably Scottish) colonists. That plan would lead to his encounter with the slave trade, which is where he becomes immortal.

"It is not all pleasure, this exploration," he wrote in his journal a fortnight before his death in a remote African village in 1873. This must rate as the century's greatest understatement. The story of these years in the bush – fully documented in this exhibition – beggars belief when we think of his endurance and, also, the support he continued to com-

mand from his African staff. Their famous exploit in carrying his body for nine months to the ocean, and accompanying it to Westminster Abbey, is proof of that loyalty.

No wonder his life story became mythic for the Victorians, after his discovery by Henry Morton Stanley in 1871. "Dr Livingstone, I presume" must be the century's most famous sound-bite. (Note, as does an essay by John Mackenzie in the catalogue to this show, that hero-figures of many civilisations archetypically set off on a long and dan-

gerous journey. Mackenzie does not add that Livingstone managed to "disappear" for the mythic period of seven years.)

Livingstone's memory was then enshrined as a saintly anti-slaver rather than as the exhausted and fallible explorer. Little wonder then that the reputation survived and flourished while Stanley, in contrast, retreated into the horrors of the Congo's imperial exploitation.

The result was, according to another catalogue essay by Felix Driver, that Livingstone's life promoted a sense of a moral mission for the future British colonial effort in Africa. That is a rather important achievement if you think, as I do, that Britain's record had its positive aspects.

So there is no harm in remembering that Livingstone may also have been a hypocrite, and something less than a hero. In the later years he depended on the Arab slave dealers of whose trade he was the world's leading enemy. He was a remarkable man, and honest with it to quote him near the end, "I am very old and shaky – my cheeks fallen... the mouth almost toothless... a smile that is of a hippopotamus – a dreadful old fogie."

This exhibition, which moves to Edinburgh in the summer, has many delights. There is a chunk of the *mpundu* tree under which his heart was buried; there is a cast of his broken arm, the legacy of his manning by a lion; there are some lovely naive watercolours by Sir Samuel Baker, including his picture of the famous occasion when Baker and his horse were pursued by an elephant and the elephant was gaining.

And I enjoyed the long list drawn up by explorer James Grant of the "African Kit" must remember to pack, which, in addition to shirts, bridges, ammunition, etc, includes "One Housewife, large". I believe that that is a word for a sewing kit.

David Livingstone and the Victorian Encounter with Africa is at the National Portrait Gallery until July 7 and then the Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, July 27 to October 10. The catalogue has the same title. Supported by The John Ellerman Foundation, Basilie Gifford and Co, the Mrs Harryhausen Trust, Harpers & Queen.

Return of the wolf

Terry McCarthy on plans to revitalise a species

Fourteen wolves were released into Yellowstone in America's largest national park in the brightest it has been in 100 years.

In the last century, wolves roamed across the North American continent, from Alaska down to northern Mexico. But with the westward expansion, man soon came to be the wolf's main enemy, first hunting him for his pelt, and then killing him as a potential predator of livestock.

In farming states, the authorities offered bounties for dead wolves. In 1914 the US Congress appropriated funds for the elimination of wolves and, in little more than a decade, they had almost disappeared from 48 states.

Little changed for the wolf until 1973, when the Endangered Species Act was passed and the wolf was listed. Biologists and conservationists began a campaign to have wolves reintroduced into Yellowstone, an area of 2.2m acres surrounded by a further 6m acres of wilderness. Yellowstone and its environs had plentiful elk and deer for the wolves to prey on, and little livestock farming, they argued.

But the farmers of Wyoming, where Yellowstone is situated, and the neighbouring state of Montana were implacable. Wolves can travel long distances in search of prey, and could reach ranches around the park.

Farmers around Yellowstone fought the reintroduction campaign all the way. The legal battle is not over and there is still a possibility that the wolves will have to be recaptured and given to zoos, or even shot. But, with eco-friendly public sentiment continuing to grow in favour of the wolves, and more to be

introduced, the animals' future in America's largest national park is the brightest it has been in 100 years.

Political lobbying by both sides continued. Then, in 1993, a plan was finally drawn for reintroducing captured Canadian wolves to Yellowstone, and Congress passed the funds – \$400,000 (£261,000) a year. The wolf was on its way back.

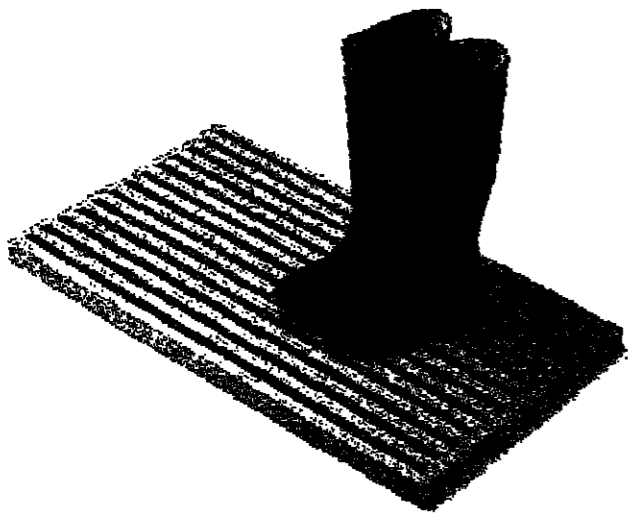
But farmers have not given up. "The battle is not yet over – it has only begun," said Jake Cummings of the Montana Farm Bureau Federation. He claims that with 50,000 wolves in Canada and another 10,000 in Alaska, the wolf is not an endangered species, and that the government is misusing public funds in paying for the reintroduction. Court cases are still pending.

Of the original 14 wolves in Yellowstone, four have been killed – either by cars on the road or by ranchers finding them on their land outside the park. Nine pups were born shortly after their release into the park. Biologists had predicted a 50 per cent mortality rate.

Another 17 are being introduced this month from Canada. Fears that the wolves would head straight back to Canada have also proved unfounded. The wolves live in three separate packs and have yet to interfere with livestock.

"It is surprising how well it has gone," said Hank Fischer, who represents the Defenders of Wildlife conservation group in the region. "There is still some animosity [among farmers], but once they realise the wolves don't cause too many problems, I suspect they won't focus on it so much."

HOW TO SPEND IT



The Traditional Garden Supply Company goes in for no grand designs, no recherché statuary or raffine pots - what it offers is good, sturdy old-fashioned useful items for those who live even a modicum of an outdoor life. Its Shaker-style boot bench has become almost a classic of the country house back hall but now it has expanded to offer larger storage of every kind, from cedar tool boxes to

garden lockers to house the tractor, spades and watering cans. Its cypress wood doormat is beautiful as well as useful and costs £34.99, while its cream or bottle green parasols are perfect for the gentle colours of English gardens. It offers simple, sturdy wooden benches at prices ranging from £299 to £479.99. For a copy of the brochure telephone 01453-273366.



For topiarists, whether closet or "outed", The Wadham Trading Company has a startling collection of hand-crafted wire forms, all welded from galvanised steel wire to be used for this age-old form of gardening.

The company's small topiary collection was such a success last year that it has hugely expanded the selection. Besides the classic and probably ultimately more appealing shapes such as Southrop Spheres - which would look terrific flanked either side of the manorial door - there are lots of whimsical shapes ranging from hearts to rabbits, ducks, dogs, cats, giraffes and even elephants.

If topiary is not quite your thing there are also some slim garden tools in lightweight solid cast aluminium, metal garden furniture and some lead coloured resin statuary and urns for those still hoping to lend a little grandeur to their acres. Prices range from £12.95 for a tortoise topiary metal support to £220 for the large sheep and pig and £275 for the Southrop Spheres. The urn photographed here is £125.

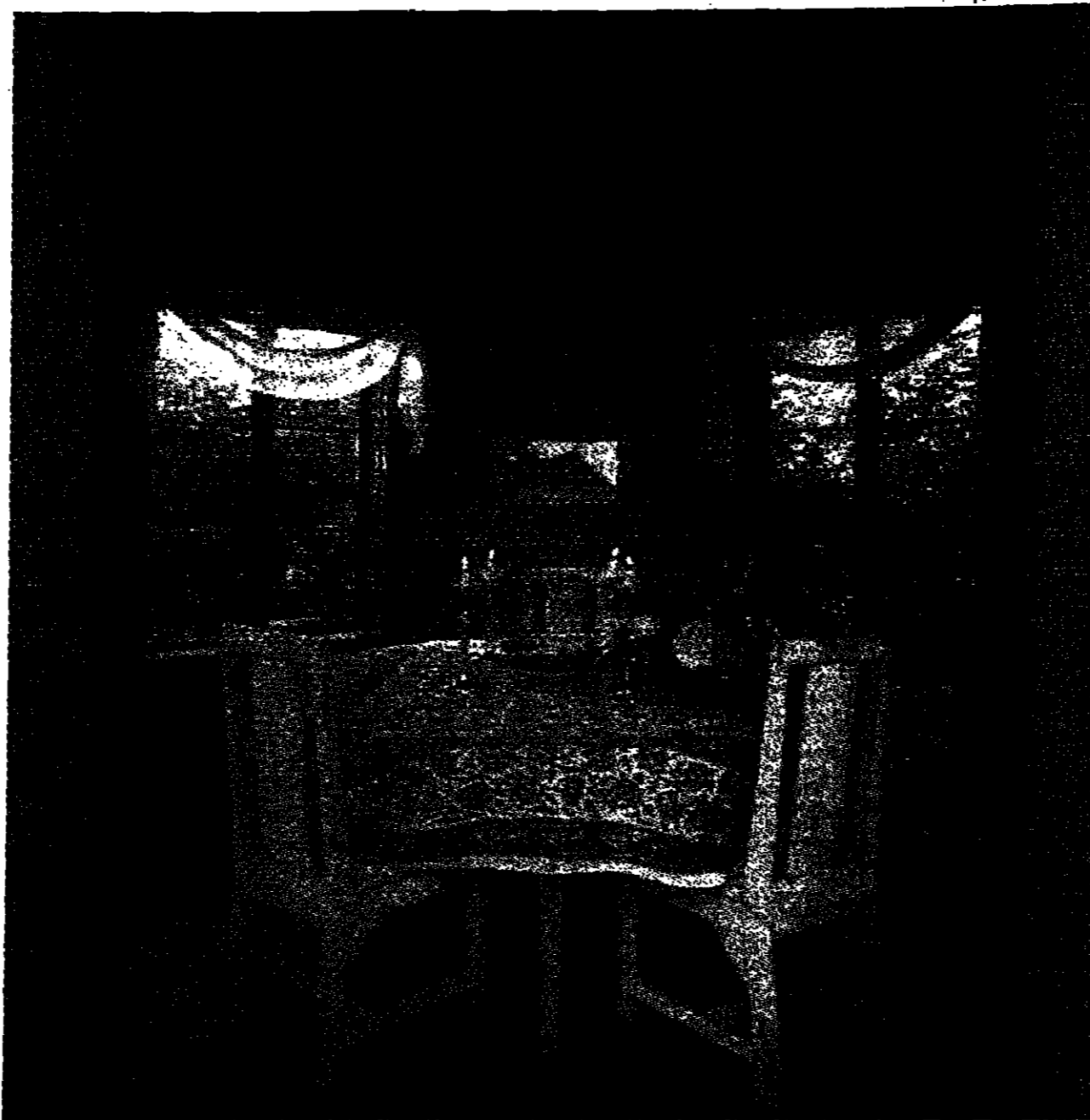
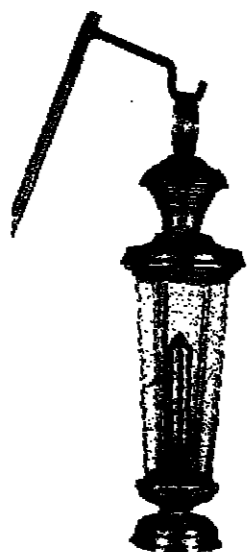
For a brochure, write to The Wadham Trading Company, Wadham House, Southrop, Nr. Lechlade, Glos GL7 3PB. Tel: 01267-850499.

For summer dining this Indian garden lantern (right) is hard to beat.

It hangs from a spiked pole and has a brass oil candle tube. If you can afford a whole raft of them, detach them from their poles and then hang them with wire from any number of trees to illuminate a pool, patio or garden at night.

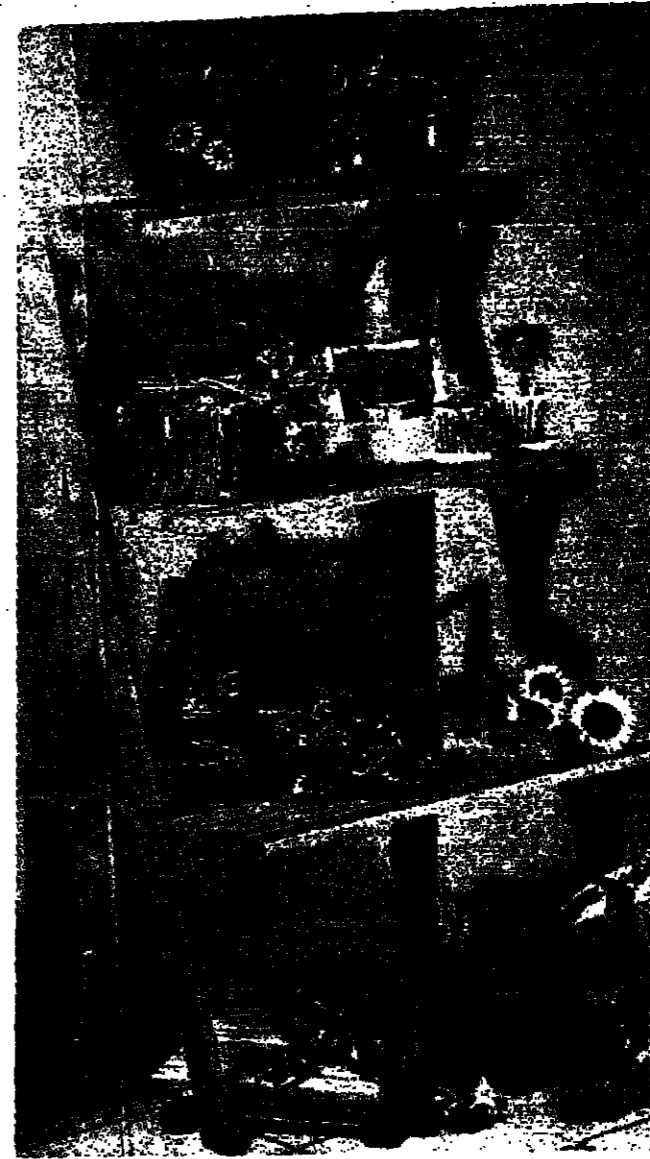
There is also a wall-bracket so they could be hung in a conservatory or on garden walls.

With the bracket, in unpolished brass, the lamp costs £38. With an iron pole, for fixing in a flower-bed or lawn, it costs £39. All from the Stiffkey Lamp Shop, Stiffkey, Norfolk NR23 1AJ. Tel: 01228-830460.



For inspiration on the magic of summer houses, conservatories and pavilions, I recommend Diane Berger's beautifully produced book *The Dining Room* (published by Abbeville Press, £21). Its last chapter is a wonderfully evocative photographic essay on the charms of eating in summer-

houses and out of doors. Here is a particularly enchanting summer scene, conjured up out of simple ingredients (painted wooden floors, a simple Indian cotton tablecloth, muslin at the windows and a little frieze of cupids above each window).



You would not expect highly sophisticated designs from Oxfam's new catalogue (Worldwide Inspirations for you and your home, 1996) but what you do expect (and find) are a few simple, inexpensive aids to summer living.

Photographed here are some unfussy, exceedingly useful conservatory (or outer-room) shelves. Painted a gentle and garden-friendly sage green, the unit is 165cm high and it costs £199.95.

Besides the shelves, there are good burnished iron candle-holders with a glass shade to protect the candle from the wind - a garden path lit with them for a summer party would look wonderful. Two spikes cost £55, a set of six cream church candles, £8.95. Anybody wanting a jute hammock will find one for £19.95. The catalogue is available from Oxfam Trading, Murdock Road, Bicester, Oxon OX6 7RF.

I garden (in the nineties), therefore I am

Furnishing your own patch of the outdoors has become big business, writes Lucia van der Post

The perils of furnishing or even adding accessories to the garden are no less arduous than those of furnishing the house. As if you needed telling, the garden is in serious danger of turning into a tyrannical taste zone, where every plant and every dibber tells your friends and neighbours a great deal more about you than you would like them to know.

The garden, after all, is to the nineties what the patio was to the fifties, the farmhouse family kitchen to the sixties, the bathroom to the seventies and the hand-crafted, rag-rolled kitchen to the eighties. The garden has become more than a simple way of enhancing the soil around the homeric altar, it has become a source of self-expression, of self-enhancement, of playing out life's fantasies. I garden, therefore I am, seems to be the nineties mantra.

It is all, say those whose job it is to forecast social trends, tied up with cocooning, family values and eco-consciousness-taking root. Its other great plus, according to sociologists, is that it offers tremendous opportunities for that other great nineties

fashion - the equal sharing of tasks between husband and wife (whoops sorry, partners). While womanly activity can focus around the plants, the weeding and the aesthetics, masculine attention can be directed towards the pergolas and garden walls, the rockeries and grand design.

All of which means that gardens and gardening are big business. An estimated £2.6bn is spent on gardens and their accoutrements today. And you do not have to have a full-scale garden to participate in this great new activity. There is plenty to tempt the tastes and purses of those whose sole horticultural endeavour is expended on indoor plants and pots of herbs. While for those with so much as a window-box or a tub, the wider horizons of expenditure and self-defining purchasing beckon.

Garden centres - the "bulbs r us" of the horticultural world - are one of the new growth industries and wandering round them has become a favourite leisure activity of the gardening classes. There are, however, to whom the garden centre is anathema and who buy their plants only from rarefied and specialised nurseries. But for the more mundane things of

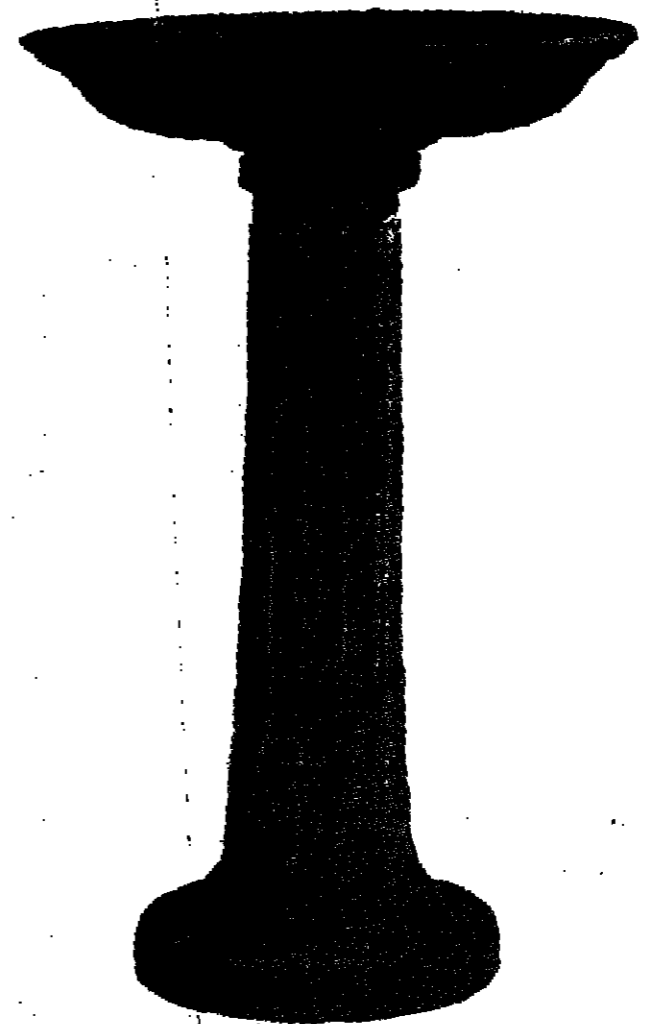
gardening life even they may, at some stage, resort to riffling through the mall order catalogues.

These days there is almost nothing you cannot buy by mail. From ornate statuary to authentic reproductions of Lutyens and Victoria wrought-iron wizardry, from terracotta pots from Tuscany to verdigris fountains, from latticed panels to wooden tools almost Shaker-like in their simplicity.

But for this week's page I have concentrated on the more mundane aspects of gardening life.

Here are companies which will supply you with things as-useful and as sturdy as conservatory shelves at accessible prices, with garden lights and hammocks, with bird-baths and garden chairs.

Fashions may come and fashions may go but these are the staples of garden life. Long after the chrysanthemum and the dahlia have been rehabilitated into the horticultural snob's frame of reference (with the rose - just possibly - relegated to the 'horticultural desert') these things will go on serving a useful, entirely unfashionable purpose.



McCord Design by Mail gets better and better. For the summer of 1996 it has a whole range of suggestions for those wanting to eat out of doors, to furnish gardens, conservatories or potting sheds and all of it at excellent prices.

Baker's racks - once only available as genuine antiques rescued from old French farmhouses and bakeries - are now copied far and wide. McCord offers a version in wrought-iron (£249.50) which measures 72in by 32in by 14in and would make a splendidly decorative shelving system in a conservatory or garden house.

It has a verdigris hurricane light for £9.95 (charming for eating by candlelight on a summer's night), an antique metal bench for £99.75 and some sturdy copies of old-fashioned traditional garden accessories.

Look out for the traditional



garden line kit (used for helping gardeners to sew seeds in straight lines) made from recycled pitch pine taken from Lancashire Mills (£8.99), and, shown above, a wooden dibber made from a single piece of turned wood (£5.99) and a nicely classical-looking terracotta bird-bath (£79.95). For a catalogue telephone 01793-133499.



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All Oxley's furniture is made from sand-founded aluminium and most of the designs are based on designs from the early 19th century and have timeless appeal.

Styles range from very ornate tables to the relatively plain and classical lines of a big selection of chairs, including this Constantian Armchair in midnight blue (£298).

Oxley's Furniture is at Loestone Barr, Westington Hill, Chipping Compton, Glas GL56 6UR. Tel: 01366-840466.

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FASHION

Couture dream makes a comeback

Belinda Morris tells how modern developments have made shantung, the luxury formal fabric, fun for daytime



□ Left: Fitted shantung silk tangerine jacket with two-way zip, £425, and matching zipped A-line above-knee skirt, £176, by DKNY, 27 Old Bond Street, London W1 (tel 0171-489 8088). Crystal earrings, £170 and ring, £110, by Lalique, 162 New Bond Street, London W1 (tel 0171-489 8228)

□ Right: Lime shantung silk single-breasted jacket, £249, and matching flat-fronted, slim trousers, £149, by Nicole Farhi, 138 New Bond Street, London W1 (tel 0171-489 8388), and branches and Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Silver and enamel earrings, £57, by Helena Rohrer from Jess James, 3 Newburgh Street, London W1 (tel 0171-437 0199), and Ally Capellino, 95 Wardour Street, London W1 (tel 0171-484 0788). Silver star pendant, £85, by Dover and Hall, 60 Beauchamp Place, London SW3 (tel 0171-589 8474)

□ Far right: Pale blue shantung silk lined coat, £1,135, and off-white shantung silk shift dress, £585, both by Ralph Lauren, 345 New Bond Street, London W1 (tel 0171-481 4867), and Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Silver ring with pearl, £78, by Helena Rohrer (as before)

□ Below: Electric blue shantung silk shirt, £175, by DKNY. Crystal earrings, £170, by Lalique (as before)



Every once in a while a fashion detail surfaces that captures the collective imagination. It might be a theme - viz Woody Allen's *Amie Hall* in the 1970s - or a silhouette - the formless black layers of the 1980s. This decade we have taken a fancy to fabric and in a big way. No longer satisfied to let cut and colour tell the whole story, we now demand much more from cloth.

We want luxury, sophistication, character and texture. All criteria merge in this year's new favourite: shantung, a plain weave, slub silk fabric. Strictly speaking, of course, there is nothing new about shantung. The stuff of couture dreams and beloved of royals, it has hovered on fashion's periphery since the mid-1940s. Emerging from time to time, usually for snappy tailored pieces through the 1950s and

1960s, it has subsequently contented itself as the perfect material for wedding and evening dresses. Until now. Today this naturally uneven, subtly lustrous fabric has left the ballroom for the high street, as couturiers and design-led retailers alike have rediscovered its possibilities. Why shantung should be making a comeback is not so surprising. The long-running

fascination for beautiful fabrics with surface interest meant that its time was sure to come. And the more recent desire for high-shine synthetics like satinated nylon and polyester has led the way for this spirit of glossiness. If slippery, satin shift dresses were just a little too bright, shiny, clingy and young for most of us, then shantung may well be what we are looking for.

Which leads to a third advantage. After a period of soft, loose, fluid forms, it is high time for a silhouette with bite. Shantung offers crispness, structure and modernity. And class.

Shantung is not a funky fabric and its retrospective roots have inspired designers as diverse as Gianfranco Ferré and Vivienne Westwood to rework classic styles from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s for this summer's collections.

Shirtwaister dresses, capri pants and simple shell tops, safari shirts, swing coats, shift dresses, tunics and A-line skirts have all figured prominently on the catwalks and will find their way on to smart rails this season.

"The key to shantung revisited lies in its wearability. 'What's so great is that you can take a couture fabric and use it in a sporty way, that's what makes it new,'" says Dilys Williams, designer of Liberty's Own Label collection, who has included a shantung tunic top and capri pants in this summer's line.

Lucille Lewin of Whistles agrees. "I intended it to be a day-time fabric," she says. "It should look casual and sexy, not grand and dressy." Like Williams, she was looking for a fabric to follow on from last year's shiny satin - something less flat, more up-front. It might also be argued that with none of the brash glitziness of satin, shantung will have more lasting attractions. Apart from its appealing tex-

ture, what gives shantung its high profile is its amazing ability to take pigments. While the lumps and knots in the weave do not lend themselves to successful printing, the colours that can be achieved are jewel-like in their clarity. No wonder then that Liberty favours grass green and orange, Whistles offers gold and turquoise and DKNY are selling out fast of hot red, electric blue and apricot. By contrast, pastel shades retain an icy freshness at Ralph Lauren, Jill Sander and MaxMara and white looks crisp, modern and discreet at Valentino.

The fact that so many designers, at all levels of the market, have picked up on the shantung story, has naturally led to a wide variety of looks, not least in the fabric itself. It has also led to some confusion as to just what constitutes a true shantung.

Shantung is not what it was. Originally the term defined a rough weave fabric, made of raw silk yarns on hand looms in the Shantung province of China. Today, very little comes from China and the name has almost become generic, a handy description for almost any fabric with a slub, such as the rougher dupions from India, for example, or a heavy-weight pounce. Some British companies, such as Henry Bertrand, successfully manufacture their own shantungs.

As with most things, you get what you pay for with a slub silk fabric - wholesale prices range from £5 a metre for a low-grade dupion, to £85 a metre for a couture shantung. And as beautiful as it looks, the message is buyer beware. Less expensive fabrics will be less stable as lightweight warp yarns and heavyweight weft yarns can occasionally separate, leading to weak seams and fraying. Not ideally suited for clothes with a snug fit, shantung has

been used here and there for unlined, slim-line pants, so extra strain should be expected on hips and rear.

At its best, shantung should be used to follow the contours of the body, rather than cling to it. Think of the A-line dresses and shifts by Hardy Amies and Norman Hartnell in the 1950s and 1960s, as worn by Princess Anne, or clean, sharp tailoring with neat revers or mandarin collars.

A scout around the best second-hand dress shops, such as Steinberg and Tolkein in Kings Road, London SW3, could reap dividends for those hankering after the real thing.

However, for anyone wary of adding pure silk to her daytime wardrobe, the spirit of shantung has a more accessible side. Synthetic yarns recreate the textural, iridescent mood admirably for Marks and Spencer's slim-fit shantung shirts, while Cella Christmas, the design executive at Grace, was happy to use a shabby, subtle sheen acetate/viscose blend for softer, less crisp, sculptural separates this summer.

At Liberty, a linen/viscose shantung effect fabric has been used for dressier, special occasion suits. Regardless of yarn, quality or weight, the good news for admirers of this top drawer cloth is that the feeling for textural fabrics will continue into autumn and beyond.

Designers such as Dries van Noten, Romeo Gigli and Prada have all favoured richer, opulent materials, while developments in fabric technology mean that exciting textural possibilities have widened the options for the rest of us.

Additional research by Tony Glenville.

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OUTDOORS

Fishing / Tom Fort

Born-again flyman remains tongue-tied

I fear I may be in danger of becoming a bore. So what's new, did I hear someone say? I will ignore that. The thing is, I have acquired a new skill, and I feel absurdly pleased about it. Actually, I'm not sure that "skill", with its connotation of accomplishment, is the right word. Let us say that I have learnt something, which at my time of life is quite a feat.

They are recognisably what they are supposed to be. And I have a suspicion that one or two may do the business. They are flies, and I was taught to tie them by a long-suffering man called Ian Hockley. Quite why he should have subjected himself to the punishing task of conducting evening classes at Newbury College through the dreary months of winter is beyond me. It certainly wasn't for the money, as the fees were piffling.

The purpose of tying a fly is simple: to use fur, feather, silk, and a few other materials to create an imitation or impression of an item that a trout might care to eat. It is assembled around a hook, so that the trout - if deceived - will pay the price. This art of deception has inspired a phenomenal outpouring of human ingenuity. Thousands upon thousands of more or less convincing counterfeits have been devised. Even as new dictionaries codify them, magazine articles by the score push the boundaries back further.

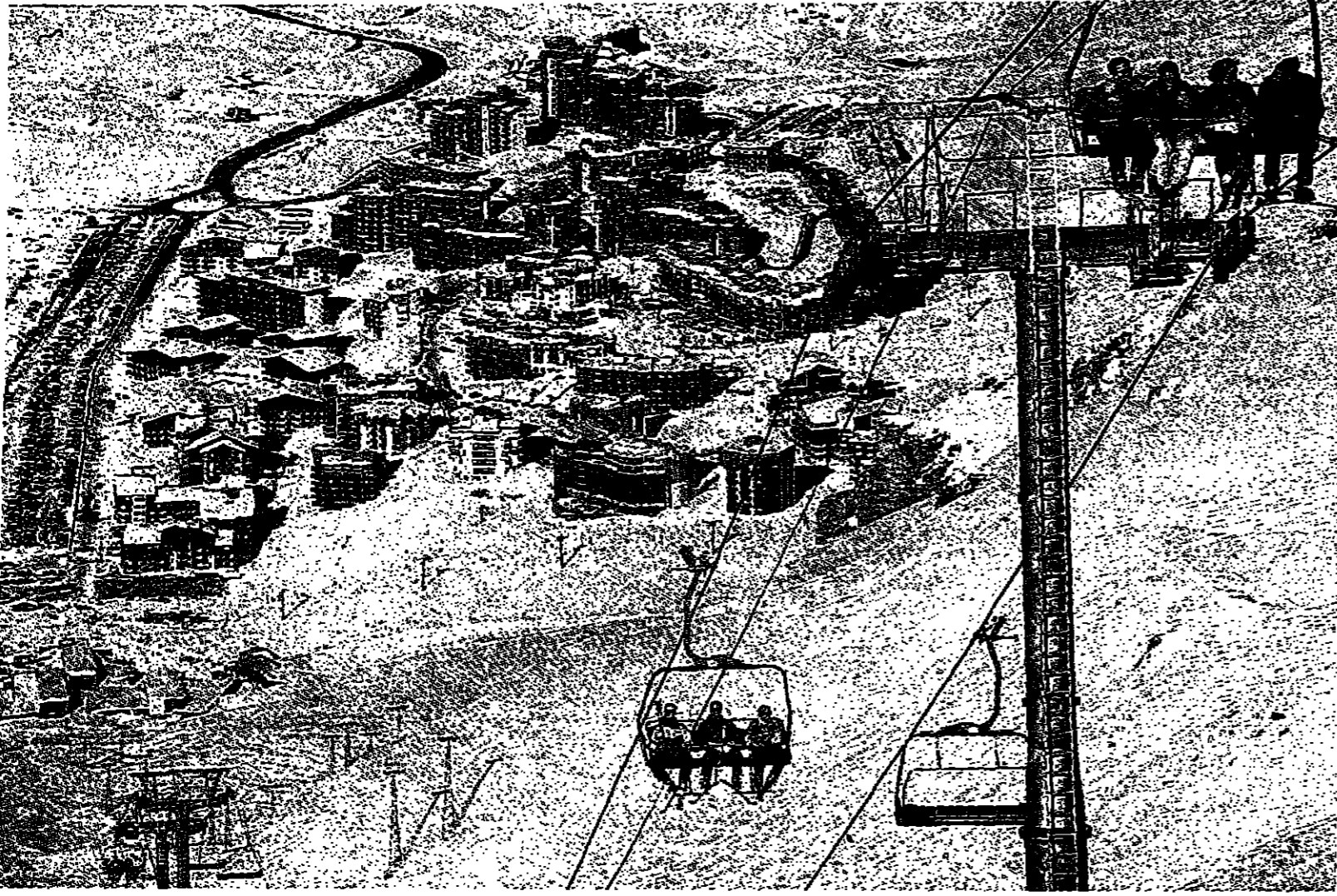


assorted pliers, hobbin holders, dubbing needles, hair stackers, whip finishers and other ironmongery; a dozen species of hook; feathers from half the inhabitants of wood and hedgerow; fur from a wide range of our four-footed

friends; a vast medley of synthetics which are increasingly replacing the traditional staples. Fly tying can be complex, a preserve for eggheads and professors. Fortunately, it can also be quite straightforward. In our class, we stuck mainly to the basics. We learned to tie the Pheasant Tail nymph, one of the deadliest of all fish takers, and one of the simplest, using nothing more than copper wire and three fibres from the pheasant's back end. We moved on to the shrimp, a creature which our tutor explained tends to turn a trifle pink at periods of sexual activity. "Don't we all?" murmured one of the wags.

Later I managed a serviceable mayfly; a decent Walker's Sedge (a great slayer on summer evenings); two rather uncouth Mallard and Claret; a hopeless Irvicta which looked as if it had been savaged by the cat; a Lum's Particular of passable fidelity; an Elk Hair caddis which might come in handy; and two Cul de Canard olives for which I cherish high hopes. A combination of extreme cack-handedness, defective eyesight and inattentiveness relegated me to the bottom of our class. Some tasks were beyond me - for instance, the Ginger Quill we tackled towards the end of the course, which demanded an unattainable mix of peacock fibres and startling wings. In this mediocrity lies my hope of being excluded from the kingdom of fly tying bums. For once you achieve competence, the temptation grows stronger. You fish with flies you tied yourself, and tell your friends how much more satisfying it is to catch trout on them. Then you start devising your own creations, using the hair from your dog, the fur from grandma's coat, the stuffing from your favourite armchair.

The next thing you know, you catch so many fish on your invention that you are moved to inform a wider public of its irresistible attractions - so you write an article about it. Your dream is to open a dictionary, and find it there with your name appended. As yet, I have not used any of my flies. When I have, we will see how immune I am to these seductive snares. Just in case, my advice should you encounter a large, bespectacled, ill-dressed angling correspondent holding a fat trout and with an expression of fawning complacency on his face is: avoid him.



Unbearable struggle: attempts at introducing American standards of lift queue were doomed to failure at Val d'Isère

Skiing

Blowing hot and cold

For Arnie Wilson, it has been a strange, unpredictable winter on the slopes

The ski season ended with more of the capricious weather that has baffled tour operators and skiers almost all winter long. Although the Alps were packed with skiers enjoying a cocktail of fresh snow and sunshine and British tour operators reported a record-breaking Easter, the US experienced extraordinary extremes of weather. While Colorado sizzled in the heat - bringing out Swedish streakers on skis at Aspen Highlands and worshippers to an open-air, Easter-day service on top of Aspen mountain - New England froze. Blizzards spread as far south as Virginia as New England's record year for snow continued.



For sale? Breckenridge could be part of a US shake-up

As we strolled through Denver in shirtsleeves, it was in the 80s: a few hours later we stepped off the aircraft in Boston into a wintry landscape. My skis, although in need of a rest or at least a tune-up, were swiftly unmoor-balled for an excursion to Vermont. It has been a strange, unpredictable winter. In my travels around 50 ski areas on both sides of the Atlantic, I found just about every known variety of snow, including one or two of which even the Eskimos - with so many different words to describe snow - would not have heard. The sort of snow which fell in Saint Lary, in the French Pyrenees, late in March was typical. "This snow," reported my guide as we skied an exhilarating but rather sticky off-plate itinerary through a beautiful and remote valley, "is too young."

Some Italian and Pyrenean resorts, which during the earlier part of the season "stole" more than their usual share of snow from more northerly neighbours, managed to patch up some of their slopes with fresh snow after sweltering weather. The Italian resort of Sestriere, also enjoying a hestwave, was torn between keeping the downhill slopes open and the uphill task of preparing the resort for next February's world championships. In 1999, it will be Vail's turn for the event. But before then, the shape of America's ski industry could have changed dramatically. Ralcorp Holdings, which owns Keystone, Arapahoe Basin and Breckenridge, has fuelled speculation that these Summit County resorts might be for sale. Two or three ski conglomerates are beginning to dominate the North American ski areas. Intrawest now controls six resorts stretching from Quebec to the Californian Sierras and is fancied to make an offer for Keystone/Breckenridge. And American Skiing Company, recently formed by the estimated \$107m deal to merge the Maine-based LBO

the boarders are saying that skiers - if admitted to their special "reserves" - cut the corners of their jumps and "half-pipes". One solution, being tried out in a few North American resorts, is to mix skiers and snowboarders in special theme parks. Peoli Peaks in Indiana, for example, has one called Jurassic Park. It is thought that by calling these special areas "terrain parks", it will help to blur the distinction between the factions. There is even a move to marry the disciplines with the term "snow-sliders": one ski resort has already employed a "director of snow-sliding". It is unusual to find North Americans scrapping on the slopes. It is much more likely to happen in European lift queues. American queues - or lift-lines as they call them - are much more civilised. To my surprise I found the lift operators in Val d'Isère paying lip service to the American system, at least during the frenetically busy peak hours in high season during the French holidays. Faced with an almost unbearable struggle to get on to the Belvedere chair at 9.30am, I could feel my blood pressure rising as I was forced by gravity and the proximity of wall-to-wall skiers to elbow and inch my way towards a barrier which seemed never to get any nearer. The hard-pressed lift operator's heroic attempt to ensure that each chair was filled to capacity was sadly foiled - unless the queue is properly channelled through crowd-control barriers, the operator does not stand a chance.

It is fashionable in Aspen, Colorado's most fashionable resort, to Federal Express your skis home rather than struggle to carry them - and many already have. But die-hard skiers are lingering on. Although Aspen's other three mountains have closed, the town's local peak, Ajax Mountain, plans to remain open at weekends until May. Arapahoe Basin, one of Colorado's highest ski areas, is hoping to remain open well into the summer. For skiers who want guaranteed snow even longer, there is always the South American option. Resorts such as Portillo, Valle Nevado, La Pava and Termas de Chillan in Chile, and Gran Catedral (Bariloche) and Las Lenas in Argentina beckon from late June onwards. Big business and resort conglomerates have yet to infiltrate the Andes, where skiing is still more of a leisurely pastime than an industry. A quieter, more mystical experience for skiers who prefer the old days, it is probably much nicer that way.

Gardening / Robin Lane Fox

Power to your plant palette

If you were asked to name the most potent weapon in the gardener's armoury, you would probably not mention colour. Personally, I would choose the admirable glyptocasta. Andrew Lawson, however, is a painter, a keen gardener and a brilliant photographer of plants. In his new book he tells us that colour is our most potent weapon and, as so many of us act here by instinct, I would like to draw attention to this remarkably produced book. The last 12 months have not been good news for colour-planners. An early spring and an early, hot summer led to an unexpectedly good autumn and now to a second spring which has been slow to appear. These dislocated seasons upset the careful colour-planners, to my secret amusement.

Perhaps they really do spend hours, planning the exact matches of colour for each week in their borders. Perhaps they do, but when nature speaks up her clock in 1994 or 1995, I seldom hear these planners complaining that their accelerated gardens are looking hideous. They find some other contrast or harmony to delight them and almost persuade us that they had planned it all along. Instinct and what financial readers call gut feeling are my guide in these matters. I know what I hate: stale rose-pink and the shade of cream in Arnum which always looks slightly off. Many of these colours appealed to post-second world war pussy-cat planters and sometimes, as in one of Lawson's photographs, they combined them with large expanses of yellow-variegated leaves.

Usually, it is traced back to Victorian theorists but I would like to put in a word for Leonardo da Vinci

rian gardeners for the underlying principle of a Colour Wheel, which arranges the colours of the rainbow in a circle. He then divides the colours into hot and cool and explains the different effects of these which are near to each other and those which are on opposed sides of the circle. He also illustrates saturation, the intensity of a colour in its purist form. He reminds us of the parallel importance of tone, what you and I call light colour and dark. Violet-blue and pale yellow are complementary colours on his wheel, but he explains that they make a strong contrast because one is dark and the other is light. None of this theorising is new but his pictures show it better than ever before. Usually, it is traced back to Victorian theorists but I would like to put in a word for Leonardo da Vinci. I believe the old master would have been an even more brilliant photographer than Lawson, but much of which is emphasised in this book is already present, forgotten by modern gardeners, in da Vinci's notebooks. As a painter, he was aware of the subtleties. He knows about the simple or primary colours. He knows how to put

them together in the order of the Colour Wheel, which is so fashionable nowadays. He is excellent on white, a problem for pure colour theorists. He is even better on the varying colours of the day and the different effects of viewing trees with the sun directly on them and the sun between you and them. He even has some excellent comments on the effect of women in white dresses when viewed in green grass against the sun. If Frances Lincoln could hire da Vinci for a sequel, I would be even more interested to read it. Lawson reminds us of the preferences of other painters and designers. Monet, after all, planted a special order of sunset colours facing west where it would be lit up by the sunset light. Lawson takes us through the various combinations and comments magnanimously on their merits. He suggests the juxtaposing of purple-violet with deep red and illustrates this exotic mixture with different kinds of Clematis. He explains why I like red and green and why blues and whites look so good in the evening or in shade. He is rather keen on the modern revival of hectic reds and oranges and the book-jacket has a shocker of a combination in burnt orange and the difficult mauve-purple of the upright Lythrum, a plant which I will continue to plant.

There are hours of delight in this book, but after reading it I am left with a comforting question. Are there any pairings of colour which Lawson would rule out of court as incorrect? The various considerations of theory seem to cancel each other out. We are told that there can be merit in colours which are neighbours on the Colour Wheel; we are also told that there is merit in opposites. Differences of tone can justify placings which the wheel by itself might exclude. If not, there is the added inter-play of saturation and purity and behind them all, the redeeming presence of sunlight, shade and the differing tones of seasonal greens.

I leave this book thinking that it justifies anything, so long as it is planned and limited to a few main colours at once. Andrew Lawson is plainly a more tolerant chap than I am. The sight of round-about plantings by courtesy of all our council taxes persuades me each year that there is a municipal downside to colour theory, and that there is a missing Town Hall factor which also belongs in the picture when the lens and the eye which chooses are not so sensitively tuned.



Colouring in pink and white 'Lupinus' The Chataigne is partnered with 'Rose' Wife of Bath

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150 من الالصل

TRAVEL

Watersports

Hooked on the Old Man and his sea

Watersports are on the crest of a wave and over three pages FT writers explore what is available to those willing to take the plunge. On offer are yachts, whitewater rafting, scuba diving, windsurfing and various means of messing about in boats. Keith Wheatley casts off in the wake of Ernest Hemingway for a spot of game fishing

After a few days in Key West the urge to fish becomes almost irresistible, even to those who do not care for rod-and-line. Partly, it is the mythology of the place. Papa Hemingway lived here, tapping out bestsellers in the mornings and game fishing from his launch Pinar in the sleepy afternoons. Re-reading The Old Man and The Sea is fatal.

One begins to dream of those big marlin just offshore, line screaming out from the big reel and a certain grace under pressure in the fighting chair. And the boats themselves look so sexy. Rows of them tied to the wharf at the foot of Front Street. These vessels have the power and sense of purpose of a Corvette Stingray or a Winchester hunting rifle. Afternoon Delight was 47ft long, twin 400hp diesels, and with a local reputation for finding fish. The price of \$400 for half a day seemed a little steep, even to follow in the footsteps of Hemingway. The previous afternoon I had made a pilgrimage to the writer's home, paid \$5 to tour its cool elegance, viewed his Remington portable and stroked the numerous descendants of his famous cats. Nearly 100 times that sum to take the fantasy offshore sounded a homage too far. However, skipper John Mathews was nothing if not a good salesman. He provided a short tour of Afternoon Delight's facilities, which included an onboard fax for last-minute bookings. He hinted that I was lucky that a group of Texan cardiac surgeons, who often flew from Houston and took the boat, had cancelled at short notice. The deck log, featuring a 220lb sailfish caught the previous day, lay open on the saloon table. It was graciously done, Mathews knew I was firmly hooked and just needed playing gently. Best of all, he knew a couple of westcoasting Good Ol' Boys from the mid-west who might want to share the charter with me. Tom Delaney was a road-building contractor from Wisconsin. "Snow's

so thick in the winter, you can't do anything much except go off on vacation," he said as Afternoon Delight powered down the fairway channel leading to the sparkling cobalt waters of the Gulf. First honour fell to Dennis Gadz, Delaney's son-in-law. By now Afternoon Delight was about 5 miles offshore, cruising the edge of the coral reef that shelters the Florida Keys. As he played the reel, the charter party began to grow excited but the bored demeanour of AJ, the boat's mate, gave us a distinct clue that no records were about to be broken. As the fish came to the stern, its colours more than made up for a lack of excitement with the relatively meagre 40lb size. It was a dolphin (fish, not mammal) and striped along its back with vivid yellow and blue markings. To European eyes, used to the grey inhabitants of the Channel and north Atlantic, it was a truly wondrous fish. But it was simply squeezed into the ice chest with ill-humour. Not least by AJ, a Key West redneck straight from the days of wrecking and rum-smuggling that made the community (the southern most tip of the continental US) the richest city in Florida during the late 19th century. His big thrills, and big bucks, came from acting as a guide to boat-owners who wanted to take a semi-illicit trip to Cuba, just 85 miles away. While US citizens are not barred, the trade embargo remains in force. "It's not illegal to go there," said AJ. "You're just not allowed to buy anything. Course, you do, that's the point of going. "So on the way back you drink all the liquor, smoke all the cigars and throw the receipts over the side. You tell the coast guard you anchored up a creek, fishing all week. But if they find any evidence, you're in trouble." AJ made it sound like El Dorado. "Cheapest wine you'll ever drink, fantastic restaurants and beautiful women. And it costs pennies. Fantastic fishing. Last trip we caught three specimen blue marlin in an afternoon. One of the kids in the



The big catch: overhiring a boat for game fishing off Key West offers big thrills and aching shoulders

Mark Pepper

I could hear the fast flowing instructions above the thunder of the rapids: "Paddle right! Lean forwards! Hold on!" A torrent of grey alpine water exploded on unseen rocks just as the little rubber boat approached them. The raft, its seven paying passengers and the helmsman disappeared in this burst of white water. In a split second they bounced back into view, their faces beaming with exhilaration. A stretch of calm water followed and their heart rates gradually returned to normal. The river meandered through the deep green forests of the Tyrol in the Austrian Alps. It would be easy to drift into a false sense of security as this magnificent mountain scenery goes by. In a few more moments, though, the river turned a corner and another rapid appeared. Another dose of adrenaline brought the rafters to new heights of excitement and the instructions rang out once more. A couple of hours on the river is all it takes to inject adventure and excitement into a holiday. As the trend moves away from the passive break, so whitewater rafting is becoming big business all around the world. Last year, about 100,000 people took the plunge in Tyrol alone. The sport is relatively new but has been established long enough for mistakes to have been made and lessons learned. With its strong skiing industry, Austria has had its fair share of tourism based on exciting but potentially hazardous sports. The government has kept a close eye on the rising popularity of whitewater

Whitewater Rafting Rapids reaction force

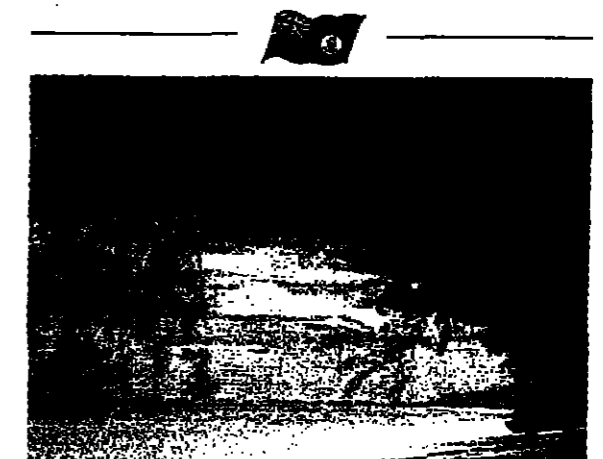
Guy Marks runs the gamut of wild water from Austria to Zimbabwe

rafting and has taken positive and practical action. Austria introduced legislation six years ago specifically for rafting. It laid down regulations to ensure the sport is run safely and it is the only country to insist that rafting guides hold a state-tested licence. There are regulations that also apply to the equipment and safe running of the trips, such as taking two guides in the raft if the river is of the higher grades. Since these regulations came into force there have been no serious accidents at any of the commercially run rafting businesses in Tyrol, which must make it the safest place outside of North America to raft whitewater. Of course, there is nothing stopping private rafters from ignoring the regulations and all common sense at their peril. An internationally accepted system of grading rivers has been established. These run from 1, which is flat water with little current and mild waves, to 6, which is unrunnable with walls of white water and not commercially viable. The higher the grade, the more exciting the ride. Grade 3 is moderate with waves, swift currents and narrow channels. In such a river section there would be obstructions such as rocks and gravel



Pounding hearts on wild water: a relatively new sport but lessons have been learned

countries have their fair share of exciting rivers. There are the Pacuare and Reventazon in Costa Rica. The Urubamba River in Peru offers rapids of grade 2 to 3 and these can be rafted for a few hours or as part of a longer excursion to the lost city of the Incas, Machu Picchu. Scotland has several rivers where the sport is becoming popular. But the consensus is that there is one river that stands out above all others - rafting the Zambezi below the Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe is regarded as the most exciting one-day rafting trip anywhere in the world. The journey only takes a few hours but the course of 10 rapids takes whitewater rafting to its extreme. The rapids are all grade 4 to 5 and there is even the infamous rapid number 9, which is grade 6. This is unrunnable and the participants breathe a sigh of relief when the rafts pull over to the rocks and are carried around the rapids on dry land. The best time is October and November, when the water is low and creates a more exciting run as it crashes over the exposed rocks. In May and June, rafting is likely to be suspended as the flow of water can be just too great. These waters are dangerous. People can and do flip their rafts, fall out and have fatal accidents. Fees can be contacted in Austria on tel: 0043-5328 6032; Adrift (London) on tel: 0181-874 4967; Craft-Na-Caber (Scotland) tel: 01887-830588; Splash (Scotland) tel: 01887-829706; Whitewater USA (England) tel: 01753-644795; Sheerwater (Zimbabwe) tel: 00263-134471. North America is another favourite destination. The best rivers tend to be in the national parks which brings them under government control and operators must have permits. Fear of litigation means that safety is high. Central and South American



Seven Mile Beach

12ft. Dive

Advertisement for Cayman Islands featuring the text 'WARMED BY MORE THAN THE SUN' and contact information for Cayman Islands Tourism.

London Docklands A waterway for all reasons

The chap from the Development Corporation said it was policy to allocate watersports in London's rejuvenated Docklands according to environmental criteria. Nosty jet and water skiers in the Royal Docks next to City Airport, silent sailers next to the grandeur of Canary Wharf and canoeists in the quieter reaches of Shadwell. I remembered this while struggling to stay upright on a bucking jet-ski in the chilly waters of George V dock as a BAe 146 jet came off the runway and virtually parted my wet hair. Given that many local councils are imposing strict controls on these noisy, exhilarating machines at coastal beauty spots, it makes sense to use them in the centre of a city - and the water is cleaner than in many estuaries. The Docklands Watersports Club is popular with jet-ski enthusiasts. "We have had people move home from Kensington to the Isle of Dogs to be closer to us," said Marion Phillips, who runs DWC with her husband Mervyn. They provide rental machines (£30 an hour, including wetsuits and safety gear) or store and launch members' own. Cheap facilities are common across Docklands watersports. At Westferry Road, an independent charity operates a beautifully equipped centre. With Canary Wharf as a grandstand, one of the most popular activities is dragon-boat racing on Millwall Dock. Lines of these Hong Kong-inspired war canoes can be seen pulled up on the pontoons, and corporations such as UBS, Texaco and Swissair enter staff teams in summer evening regattas. The annual member-ship is £50. "These fantastic facilities at unbelievable prices must be one of London's best kept secrets," said the centre's co-ordinator, Frank Dewar. The Shadwell Basin Project has a sailing location that any famous yacht club would give its Royal Warrant for. The SBSC keeps its Bosun and Wayfarer dinghies on moorings just off the Prospect of Whitby pub from Easter to December. "Our ambition is a trip across the Channel," said SBSC's Stuart Keep. Canoeing is Shadwell's other speciality. A course of seven two-hour lessons on a Tuesday night costs £55 and will have a beginner happily paddling upstream to Tower Bridge by the end.

Keith Wheatley Docklands Watersport Club, Woolwich Manor Way E16, tel: 0171-511 7000; Docklands Sailing and Watersports, Westferry Road, tel: 0171-357 2626; Shadwell Basin Project, Glaimis Road, tel: 0171-481 4210.

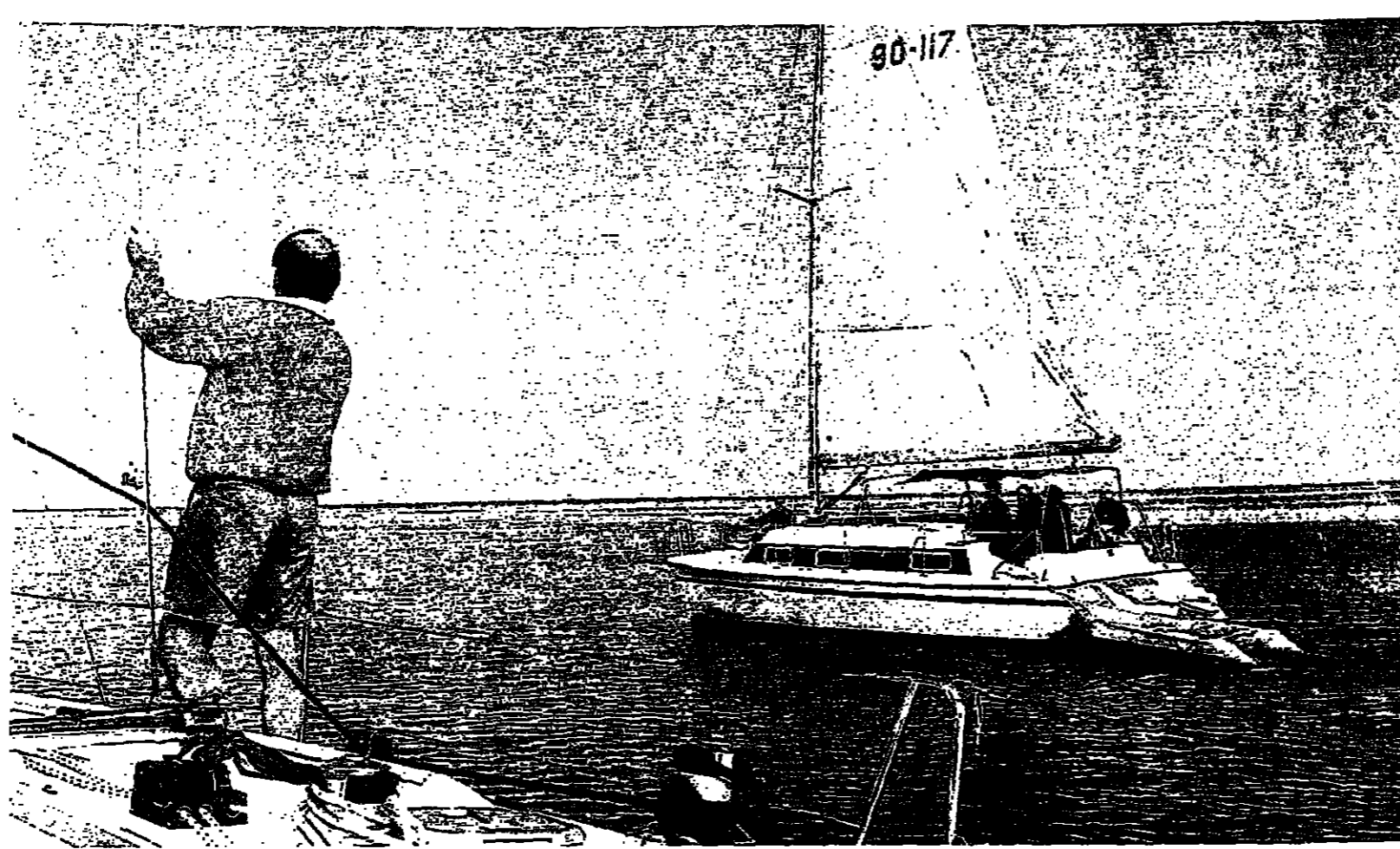
TRAVEL

The Harbourage, at 3rd St South in St Petersburg, is the only marina I have encountered that adjoins an international art gallery.

Most of the charter fleet in St Petersburg is owned by US citizens who want to earn something out of their yachts when they are not sailing themselves.

Leaving the Harbourage there is little option but to turn right and head south. The upper waters of Tampa Bay are both industrial and shallow.

The gateway to the Gulf of Mexico and the wonders of the Intra-Coastal Waterway is Skyway Bridge, which carries Interstate 275 hundreds of feet above Tampa Bay.



Negotiating the shallows of the Manatee River

Upriver in wealthy Florida

Keith Wheatley samples the atmosphere of the region's yacht clubs and small towns

drive automobiles. We pressed on upriver past the Snead Island Boat works.

We anchored nearby, close enough to shore for a dinghy ride to the Bradenton Yacht Club for dinner. A mistake.

Members of the St Petersburg Yacht Club. There has been an estate there since the 1940s when a Scot named Nimmo opened a bar-and-sandwich joint to serve weekend anglers.

Many of the "passes" are hazardous in the prevailing offshore breeze and some have silted up. Yet often enough the ICW opens up into broad lakes when the diesel can be shut off and an hour or two pleasant sailing enjoyed.

Sarasota must be one of the few American cities where a sailboat can tie up virtually at the end of Main Street. Island Park is a hook-shaped peninsula with wonderful shelter, a café named O'Leary's where the fried chicken baguettes alone are worth a visit.

Luxury Yachts Perfect for avoiding the paparazzi

It was, observed Mike Everton-Jones, the ultimate exercise of client-power. The American charter party arrived in Italy, boarded their chosen yacht and had the crew turn their watches back six hours to Eastern Standard Time.

They did not want to risk jet-lag on their return to Wall Street. While the boat cruised for two weeks off Corsica and Sardinia, ship's time related solely to Staten Island. The sun was over the yardarm before breakfast was taken.

As a director of Yachting Partners International, Everton-Jones is accustomed to customers whom. A client who charters Leander, say, the \$350,000-a-week motor yacht belonging to British car parks mogul Sir Donald Gosling, is not going to be reticent about a few little personal requests.

globally rich prefer not to rent their yachts, in spite of the considerable income and tax breaks available. Gianni Agnelli and Rupert Murdoch both have superlative 150ft sailing yachts in Exorabent and Morning Glory, respectively, but neither is available to charter.

Every broker agrees that, in the end, whatever the size of the staterooms and however many toys are available (the 40m Mirabella, cruising off New England this summer, even has its own Albatross seaplane in attendance) people make the biggest difference.

Salaries are high for those who combine the talents of seadog and maître d'hôtel. Tips (always an aggregate 15 per cent of the charter fee) can easily double a top captain's salary of \$100,000 a year, and that with food and accommodation provided.

Interior figures high in the charterer's list of priorities. While many motor yachts have a white-bullied uniformity from the outside, the styles of their cabins and public areas vary enormously.

While an ultra-modern 'disco' style may get a new boat into the magazines or chosen to make a film (watch out for Northern Cross in the latest James Bond movie, GoldenEye), it doesn't always play that well in the charter market.

Even at that rate it is one of the most popular ships afloat. "You're aiming at a very small point in the market and that group will spend their money whatever is happening in the world," said Everton-Jones.

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سكنى من الامل

TRAVEL

Scuba Diving

Tying up the reef at a rate of knots

James Henderson lets us into the secret of why diving in the tropics is unimaginably different

Coral is so pretty and delicate that it is easy to forget that they are not flowers...

The rewards, in the corals and the tropical fish, are more immediate and immeasurably greater...

Islands. They each benefit from low fishing pressure and from low fresh-water and sediment run-off...

that rise from 7,000ft of deep blue ocean, just cutting the surface. Their walls are sheer-sided in places...

quivering in unpredictable currents. It always pays to look closer when diving...

turn somersaults. To swim in a school of thousands of tiny fish-fry is a wonderful experience...

coral outcrops on submerged columns. Saba is a pyramid-shaped, volcanic lump. It has only one true reef and its sand is grey...

James Henderson travelled to the Turks and Caicos Islands with Caribbean Connection (tel: 0244-341131)...

Contact PADI International in Bristol (tel: 0117-971 1717), which has details of dive schools around the country...

Windsurfing

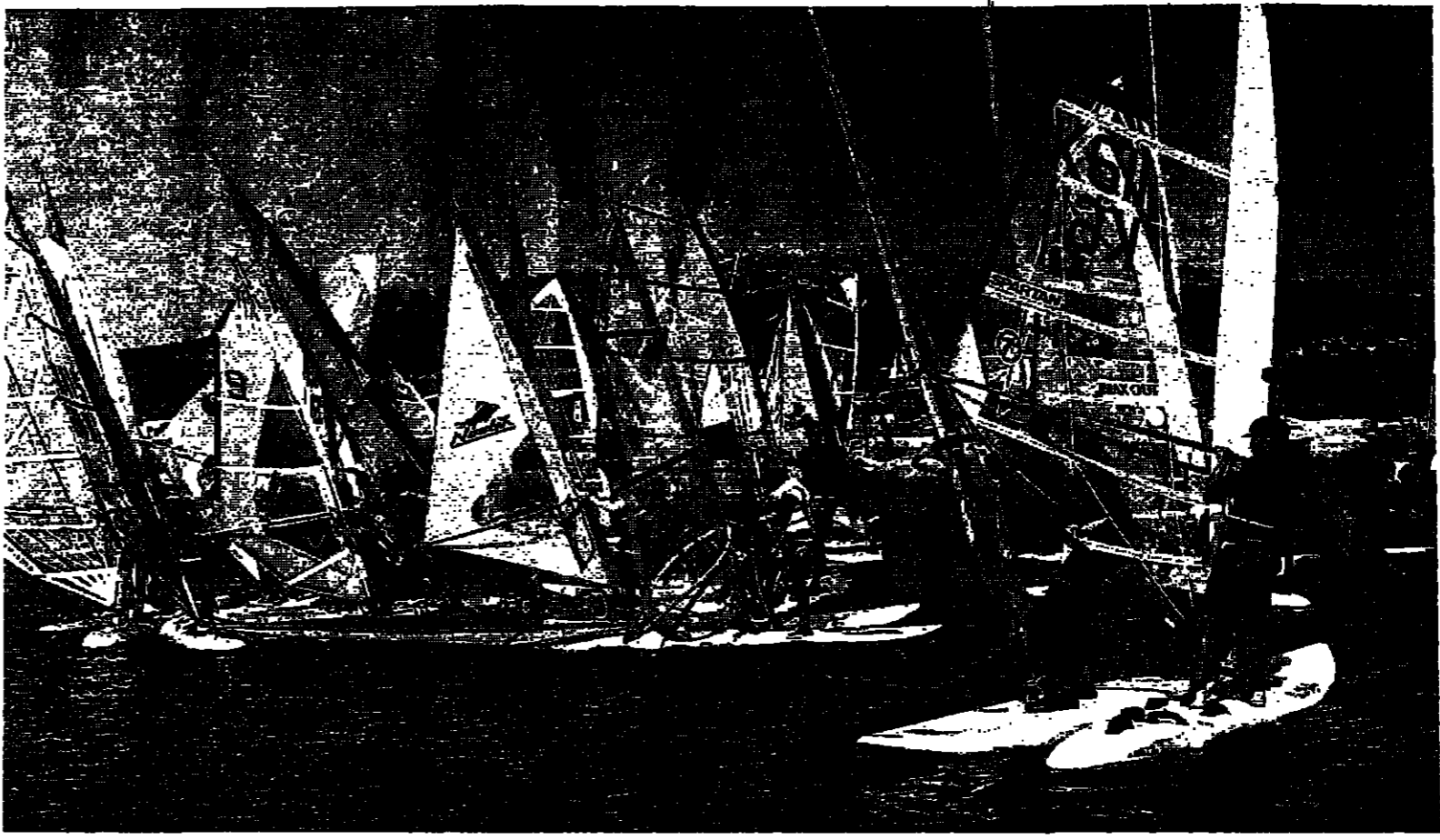
Age goes by the board in a fair wind

Michael Donne was converted to windsurfing at 55. Thirteen years on, he is still going strong

Have you ever been envious of those bright young things wafting silently and smoothly across the water...

For clothing, I do recommend a wet-suit: it is essential to help keep out the cold...

Contact: The Windsurfing Manager, Royal Yachting Association, RYA House, Elmsey Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 9YA...



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سكوا من الأصيل

SPANISH FOOD AND DRINK

Modern tastes and old masters

Jancis Robinson hunts down the best exported Spanish wines

It is, of course, as absurd to devote an article to wines from as large an area as the whole of Spain as it is to do the same for France - arguably more so perhaps since Spain has even more land under vine than its neighbour across the Pyrenees.

One thing is clear about the wines being exported from Spain, however. An increasing proportion are very modern indeed - modern verging on internationalised - in the way of, say, Holiday Inns rather than the stately, and state-run, Paradors that are their indigenous Spanish counterparts.

A stately home should go to anyone able to discern the Catalan origins of Santara Chardonnay 1995, for example. This full-bodied, glossy Spanish white (with a small proportion of barrel fermentation) is a snip at £3.99 from Victoria Wine and J. Sainsbury - but the hand of flying winemaker Hugh Ryman is more evident than any Spanish influence.

Its Cabernet Sauvignon counterpart, also made by the Ryman team from universal grapes grown in the up-and-coming, high altitude Conca de Barbera wine region, is even more impressive. Carrying the full weight of maturation in good quality American oak, the Castillo de Montblanc Reserve Cabernet 1994 costs £5.99 from Fullers and is quite extraordinarily meaty and deep-colored for vines so young that this was only their second commercial crop.

The wine shops owned by Fullers brewery in and around London have one of the best

selections of Spanish wines in Britain; the head wine buyer used to buy Spanish wine for Oddbins.

Much more truly Spanish - or rather Catalan - than the Ryman wines, for example, is Fullers' confidently lean, appley Can Feixes 1994 at £4.99 from just next door to Conca de Barbera. No nonsense about oak ageing in this wine which perfectly expresses local colour, in this case Parellada grapes grown on some of the highest vineyards in the Penedes region, with a bit of Macabeo and a dash of Chardonnay. The phrase Spanish Chablis springs disconcertingly to mind.

Muri Veteres 1995, £4.25 from Fullers, is another truly Spanish snip - post-Olympics modern Spanish, that is. Sold as Carchelo in the US, it owes its gamy depth of flavour to the Monastrell (aka Mourvedre) grapes which dominate the blend but is given a juicy polish by virtue of its Merlot constituent. Whoever would have thought, five years ago, that the once-despised vineyards in the baked hinterland of Alicante could produce something of such relative sophistication?

Fullers, and top Tesco stores, stock the fascinating new wave Marques de Grigoriu wines at around £8 a bottle, many of which bear grape names more familiar in France. There is even a creditable version of Bordeaux's rare Petit Verdot.

Bordeaux varieties clearly flourish in many parts of Spain, untroubled by the clouds that annually threaten their very ripening on the



The Marqués de Grifón savours his Cabernet Sauvignon in Matpica de Tajo, west of Toledo

French Atlantic coast. At a tasting of 47 Spanish reds, for British Airways the other day, we were mildly horrified to find that the most stunning wine of all, by quite a margin, was not something indisputably Spanish but Raimat Cabernet Sauvignon 1991.

Instead, the supple style and American oak-enhanced flavour of this sumptuous wine (served blind and successfully

to my FT colleague and fellow wine writer Edward Penning-Roswell) sits squarely on the Pyrenean fence between Bordeaux and this vast Cava-financed estate reclaimed from the desert of Costers del Segre, north-east Spain.

With the 1991 vintage, Raimat seems finally to have broken into the modern world (the Raimat Tempranillo 1991 is a fine peppery specimen, too,

Thresher/Bottoms Up/Wine Rack stores are just moving from the slightly more rustic 1990 Cabernet to the 1991, which is certainly worth the £6.19 they are asking for both vintages. But bargain hunters should head for the most wine-minded Co-op stores where the official list price of 1990-moving-on-to-1991 is £5.49. And until Monday they are on offer at £4.49.

Classic indulgence from the Costa Brava

Contrary to popular belief, we wine writers spend very little time tasting century-old wines. Which was one of the reasons why I readily accepted an invitation to the Savoy Hotel, in London, to taste selected vintages of Marqués de Riscal rioja back to 1871.

The other reason was that we were promised a lunch provided by the Catalana restaurant El Bulli. Ever since seeing the jellifying effect that a visit there had had on Simon Hopkinson, one of our more demanding chef-writers, I had been longing to experience this new star in Spain's gastronomic firmament on the Costa Brava.

But I am always trying to cram too much into my life and, encouraged by the precision suggested by the invitation - 12 noon tapas, 12.40pm lunch - had blithely agreed to a 3pm meeting in west London afterwards.

I must have been mad. It was nearly 2pm before we even sat down to our nine-course lunch. It has been too long since I was exposed to Spanish eating habits.

But beforehand was a classic display of Spanish wine tasting, involving macho pyrotechnics with gas cylinders and port tongs (lest the corks crumbled on contact with a corkcrew) and complex manoeuvres ensuring that each of the milling tasters had a sample of both first and second bottles of each vintage. El Bulli's sommelier, Agustín Peris Bays, showed an unusual combination of boyish charm and efficiency.

This was the first seriously historic array of vintages opened up by Marqués de Riscal outside Spain (although the bodega is being courted assiduously by the organisers of the annual Wine Experience to repeat the performance in San Francisco this October).

The first Marqués de Riscal was a Spanish diplomat based in Bordeaux in the mid-19th century. Asked by a group of Rioja vine growers to find a Frenchman who would teach them a few winemaking tricks,

he ended up employing the ex-winemaker of Château Lanesan in the Médoc himself in a smart new bodega built *à la bordelaise*.

It was finished in 1868, four years before that of arch rival Marqués de Murrieta in Rioja and about the same time as Vega Sicilia's in Ribera del Duero.

Both Marqués de Riscal and Vega Sicilia imported vines from Bordeaux (luckily just before phylloxera was to infect them so disastrously) and it was long Marqués de Riscal's USP that its red rioja contains not just the traditional Spanish grapes Tempranillo, Garnacha (Grenache) and - all too

scented 1936, the sweet 1924 and the 1871 eloquently demonstrated that Rioja can be a seriously long-term wine, if carefully made.

Unfortunately, the good bottle of 1871 was drained just as I arrived, the other being a relic rather than a delight.

I was not so foolish as to miss any of the nine courses, however. Each was, in the memorable words of the sports commentator, really quite extraordinary. The translation of one course's name as "sea cucumber with endives and tomato jam" gives you a hint of the style, but the penultimate one perhaps most aptly illustrates the inventive eclecticism, almost culinary didacticism, of El Bulli's young, self-taught chef Ferran Adrià.

For *Viaje a las Especies* (a journey through the spices) the Savoy's white soup plates were filled with a thin, lightly set apple purée and then rimmed round the edge, in the manner of clock numerals, with tiny samples of different raw spices. Some, but not all, were a pleasure to eat: pink peppercorns, saffron, mint, curry, nutmeg - and on we dutifully munched, scrunched and tried to identify.

The asparagus spears wrapped in mushroom slices and arranged like a spindly wheatstreak between a creamy parmesan sauce and a fresh mandarin jelly also veered dangerously towards exhibitionism rather than hedonism. But, as in all of the other seven courses, every individual ingredient could not have been better quality. And such coups as the opening chicken curry ice cream in jellied consommé and the almost rudely green broad bean cappuccino with fresh mint and ham were strokes of pure genius.

Seven chefs flew themselves and their ingredients from Barcelona to London to work nine hours in the Savoy's infernal depths the day before our lunch. I am eternally grateful to them, and to myself for postponing that 3pm meeting at the last minute.

Jancis Robinson
El Bulli, Cala Morató, Roses
(34) 72 15 04 57.

Wine's trophy
Jancis Robinson was this week named as the winner of the Wine Writers' Trophy for 1995. She was awarded the trophy by the organisers of the annual Wine Experience to repeat the performance in San Francisco this October.

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سكوا من الأصل

SPANISH FOOD AND DRINK



Originally a piece of bread to cover a drink, 'tapas' have evolved into a varied and popular food in Spain and around the world

COHEN

King of the table

Giles MacDonogh pays homage to 'Ibérico' ham - Spain's best

I remember an interminable Saturday morning in Madrid. I stood in a queue in a department store for two hours clutching a little paper ticket. My fellow sufferers were several hundred panting and salivating Spaniards who wanted nothing less than I did.

They were desperate for ham. Not just any old ham, mind you: Ibérico ham from the sainted pata negra, or black-footed pig.

It was worth it. We all departed the shop with beaming smiles on our faces, thousands of pesetas lighter, treasuring our minute parcels of ham.

Years later, in Galicia, I was brought a plate of different cuts of Ibérico and tasted before the first time. Here black pigs from the scrubby oakwoods of the Extremaduran dehesa are fed on an almost exclusive diet of acorns in the last weeks of their lives, hence the name. Recebo will be cheaper; here the diet of acorns is adulterated with grain.

Both appearance and flavour distinguish the Ibérico from other hams. The pig is the descendant of the original porcine population of the Mediterranean basin, before the genetic engineers got to work on breeds and rebuilt their carcasses to carry as much lean meat as possible.

The genetic engineers wanted to put the fat on the outside where it could be lopped off for other uses (ice cream, for example), a technique which has robbed most

British pork both of its flavour and its digestibility. The meat of the Ibérico is as easy to identify as the beast on the trotter: its simply delicious subcutaneous fat may account for as much as 40 per cent of the whole. It has a creamy colour and properly marbles the flesh.

The Ibérico pig's diet is rounded off with herbs: lavender, rosemary and thyme, but it is clearly the acorns munched in its last months which contribute the most to its flavour. The aroma leaps out at you. In Spain, they will tell you it tastes of roast chestnuts. I find it is more like the taste of wild mushrooms.

Mad about the tapas

One of the most interesting contributions to the food world is a colourful tradition, writes Pepita Aris

The blinding, white afternoon sun gives way to a cavern of shadows on entering a tapas bar in Malaga's old quarter. Dark barrels are stacked to the ceiling. On their round ends their contents are just discernible: FX (Pedro Ximénez, a luscious, local sweet grape), a fino from Montilla, a choice of olives.

The golden liquids are swirled and served in tulip-shaped glasses, as the old men sample and discuss them, then order a contrasting wine, from a different barrel. Their score is scribbled in chalk on the mahogany bar top.

By the door a man sells conchas finas from a bucket, the huge venus clam, opened to reveal a glaze of scarlet and orange. Raw ham and matured cheese arrive with bread from the kitchen, for tapas were invented as a sop to accompany alcohol, a way of spinning out a drink without getting drunk.

The word tapa means a "cover", originally a piece of bread balanced over a glass to keep out the flies in hot weather. The bread was soon topped with sausage or cheese and, the story goes, they were served to horsemen as they rode into an inn.

Correctly, one tapa is served per person - and each new drink should bring a different one. They should be tiny, for they come before the meal, and each one should have a new flavour or texture. As such, tapas are Spain's most interesting contribution to the food world: a succession of tempting morsels for the gourmet, not a meal.

Pride of place goes to charcuterie, and the first impression in most bars is of hams hanging, each with a tiny inverted paper umbrella, to catch the drips. Raw, red and chewy, jamón serrano (cured in the Sierras) is carved with the grain and has an oomph that Parma ham lacks.

plateful of two dozen pointed green peppers, fried and salted, two will be chilli-hot. Ensaladilla, Russian salad, is a national number, achieving popularity during the civil war because fresh vegetables and mayonnaise were easy ingredients to find.

There are also hot dishes with gravy. For tapas bars are, in origin at least, male haunts in a country where Spanish men seek out consolation food with overtones of the nursery.

drinking is done away from home. Spanish men seek out consolation food with overtones of the nursery: meat balls and family stews of chicken made succulent with tripe and sausage.

Food is the means used to tempt drinkers into one bar rather than another. As a result, a bar has become the easy place to sample some of Spain's best dishes. Many specialities - including rabo de toro (stewed bull's tail) and escabeche de perdic (partridges pickled with red wine and vinegar) - are offered as tapas.

The tapas tradition is firmly Andalusian - although it has put down roots in the cities. Each of these has adapted its social function. In Barcelona, the aim is to be seen in the latest, gleaming designer bar. In Madrid, it is to be in the centre of things - and no bar would think of sweeping up the prawn heads on the floor until the end of the day, for these indicate the volume of custom.

Different parts of the country also have their own food specialities. On the Basque coast they choose charruru (spider crab, potted or grilled), while in winter San Sebastian offers the minuscule elvers, served with a little garlic and chilli and eaten with a wooden fork.

Madrid favours tires, stuffed mussels, deep-fried. In Andalusia, sitting on chairs in the street under rows of naked light bulbs, small muscades come like crisps with beer: chocos, which are yellow lupin seeds, toasted chick-peas and dried fruit, with modest offal stews, such as menudillo.

In the last 10 years an increasing number of bars have started offering gourmet items, like botago (grey mullet caviar) and the ham of the fish world, majama - Arab in origin and the salted, dried back of the bluefin tuna. Classics such as chipirones en su tinta, line-caught squid served in their own ink, have been joined by sea urchin coral, baby octopus in oil and an increasing variety of fish eggs.

These contrast with titbits from medieval times, which have survived because people ask for them. They include anchovy spines, fried till crisp, and squares of blood (set solid with vinegar) to give men strength at night. I have eaten white lamb's feet, the length of an index finger, their pearly trotters like wisdom teeth, and a whole baby lamb's intestine, wrapped round two sticks like knitting wool, then grilled. They were good, too.

A good tapas bar is certainly the place for a gastronomic adventure - and the place to find good companions. But the hint of exploration is not just gastronomic. Particularly in San Sebastian, home of the tapas crawl, the experience is perpetual.

In the country with more bars than the rest of Europe put together, tapas is also a social exploration. It carries the idea of meeting a world of new people along the way.

Pepita Aris is author of Recipes from A Spanish Village (Octopus, £9.99) and The Spanish Woman's Kitchen (Cassell, £10.99).

Madrid/Tom Burns Olé for a capital melting pot

All main roads in Spain lead to Madrid; it is plumb in the middle of the country and the melting pot of its highly distinctive regions.

The first Duke of Wellington, who criss-crossed Spain in the Peninsular War, observed that armies march on their stomachs and, much in the same vein, Spaniards took their regional cooking with them as they moved to settle in Madrid.

The rule of thumb about food in Spain is that the south fries, the centre roasts and the north steams. The totemic kitchen artefact in Andalusia is the frying pan, on the high steppes of Castille it is the wood-fired oven and it is the cauldron along the verdant Cantabrian coast. In Madrid you have the lot - and restaurants for each.

Nostalgic southerners congregate in Berrio which looks just like the white-washed house in Granada its owners left behind when they took the highway to the capital. They brought with them the ability to take Andalusian classics such as gazpacho and fried fish the extra kilometre.

Salmorejo, for example, is basically a gazpacho mousse. It is pulped tomato, bread and garlic, and virgin olive oil. In Berrio they top it with sliced hard-boiled eggs and strips of cured Granada ham - which is the way it is served up back home under the shadow of the Alhambra.

Biennesebe, which literally means "it tastes good to me", is bite-sized pieces of marinated fried fish, usually cazón, a small shark abundant off the south coast. One of Andalusia's culinary refinements, it is best accompanied by chilled fino sherry.

The tough and hearty Basques are a different species from Spain's sensuous south. erners and Goizeko Kabi hails from a separate planet from the one that sustains Berrio.

A Basque can wolf a massive red bean and chorizo cassoulet before attacking a huge sea bream that would feed four ordinary mortals.

Goizeko Kabi recalls the spacious and chintzy dining room of one of the grander houses overlooking San Sebastian's beautiful bay. This is where Basques who know their food and their Rioja grand reserves gather because it meets their exacting standards and expensive tastes.

Basque authenticity is measured by the freshness, and abundance, of the seafood and by the transformation of salted cod, bacalao, after an intricate process, into stews - bacalao a la bilbaína, bacalao a la vizcaína and bacalao al pil pil - that are dauntingly difficult to put together. Goizeko Kabi breezes through such tests.

Castilian cuisine comes into its own in a narrow street called Cava Baja where farmers coaching inns have been turned into up-market taverns and old taverns are still old taverns. This is roasting territory - lamb and cochinitillo, suckling pig - and also the home of the best grills in town.

The unpretentious Schotis serves up good roast lamb but for the past 50 years people have flocked to eat its steaks. These are served on incredibly hot earthenware platters which allow you to finish the cooking yourself, pressing the meat into the dish.

Castilians are serious people who prefer to keep things simple and avoid compromises. In Schotis you drink the house wine, a fruity young Ribera del Duero red and, as you soak up the steak's juices with your bread, you know the odours

are wafting out into Cava Baja, compelling fellow carnivores to enter and forcing vegetarians to give the street a wide berth.

Madrid itself is a frivolous island on Spain's austere central plain: Casa Ciriaque is a zarpa, the bistro's hispanic relative, which was already drawing the chattering classes back in the days when they wore spats. Successful bullfighters such as Belmonte patronised Ciriaque and so did the aristocrats who reared the bulls that Belmonte expertly dispatched.

You shout your head off at Casa Ciriaque, drink flasks of La Mancha wine and order traditional fare such as gallina en pepitoria, a tough old hen made eatable by cooking it in onions, almonds, saffron and white wine, and cold trout that has been pickled, en escabeche, according to a formula that was common in the pre-fridge age.

Like most neat maxims that are handed about, there is a flaw in the one about Spain's cooking boundaries. It leaves out, for example, the eastern,

Mediterranean, coast which Spaniards call El Levante and it forgets about rice.

Avoid the chicken and shellfish paella that has peas nesting with the rice because it isn't one. Authentic paella has rabbit, pork, snails, and little flagolet beans that only grow in the Levante region.

In El Caldero they know their rice and are charming to those who order a dish they brought with them from the Murcia coast. Arroz el Caldero spends its all-important "steaming" period in a tightly sealed pot that swings from a tripod placed alongside the table. The wait is best occupied by eating a pepper-based salad and starting on a robust red from Murcia's Yecla wine-growing area.

Advertisement for James Herrick Chardonnay wine. The text says: "If Chardonnay is all you make, you get it right. Or else." It features an image of a wine bottle and a glass. Below the bottle, it lists various wine retailers and their contact information.

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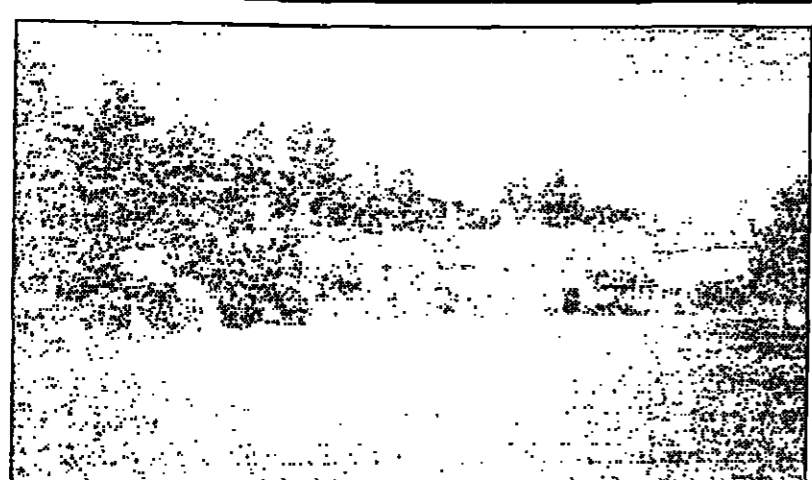
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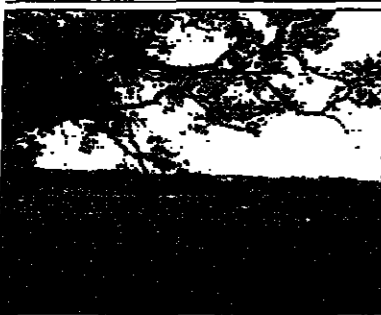
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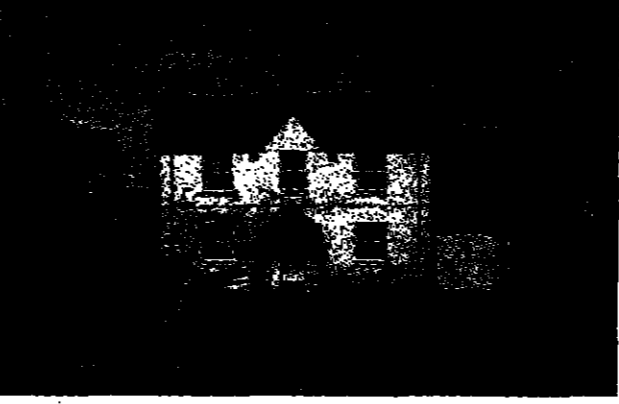
Surrey reveals its many treasures

Gerald Cadogan on why the county maintains its appeal

When an Englishman thinks of Surrey what does he bring to mind? Commuters and suburbs? Safe seats for Tory politicians? Soldiers training at Aldershot, Pirbright or Sandhurst? A golden age of cricketers called Bedser, Laker, Lock and May? The Surrey station in the Oxford and Cambridge boat race? Well, yes. Most of those things. But above it was the railways which turned Surrey into one of London's most sought-after commuter zones. The car then brought bypass architecture, bjoon homes in curving avenues planted with flowering cherries, and ribbon development that might have devoured the county. The Green Belt around London was the riposte. In today's era of tight planning, town and village "envelopes" ensure small, local green belts. Permissible development is mainly infilling. What is left of old Surrey is probably safer than it has been all century. It still has green countryside and glorious gardens abundant in the home territory of Gertrude Jekyll, who designed more than 100 gardens in the county. Behind the traffic management schemes and bland high street store fronts of Guildford, Leatherhead or Dorking lurk traces of the market towns they once were. Surrey's vernacular building style - tile cladding for the first-floor walls - crops up everywhere. It came back into fashion in the 19th century railways' building boom and still features in new homes, although now it has no purpose. Originally it protected the walls and damp mull from erosion. Property prices have recovered from recession and the lasting attractions of Surrey are reasserting themselves. It is a pleasant place to live. And nowhere is more convenient for Heathrow, Gatwick and the Eurotunnel. Trains to London take 30-40 minutes. A typical cottage, Knight Frank reports, costs £250,000 to £275,000, and a rectory/farmhouse £550,000 in the Guildford area to £700,000 in north Surrey. In the last quarter the market has perked up remarkably. Agents find houses quickly under offer. At the top end many buyers are from the financial sector, says Savills' Tommy de Mallet Morgan. A pot-pourri from Surrey follows. However, remember that sales are being agreed quickly. Good cottages are available from Curchods, Hampton and Marn, notably a thatched cottage at Bentley (Hamptons in Farnham, £199,950) and Victorian cottages at Cranleigh (Browns, £195,000) and Farnham (Mann, £240,000). Prices for 12 houses being made from the old servants' quarters at Pyrford Court near Woking are enticing. This interesting development by Latchmere Properties in the grounds of a 1900 house built by Lord Iveagh (of the Guinness family) is clad in hanging tiles. This eccentric combination costs £450,000 from Knight Frank in Tunbridge Wells. Other Georgian houses are Ham Manor at Cobham (Savills, £750,000) and Hamme House at South Nutfield (Hamptons in Caterham, £290,000). In farmhouses, Mann offers Tiffers at Charlwood for £550,000, a yeoman's house with plenty of brick and tiling. Here, as in Sussex, they are overgrown cottages. Likewise, the roofscape of Loseby at Ewhurst, which Browns is selling for £750,000 (to include 25 acres), shows how the building has grown by bits and pieces. Other large cottage-farmhouses are Solars at Chiddingfold (Browns, £700,000) and the half-timbered Summers at West Horsley (Hamptons in East Horsley, £475,000). Two Edwardian houses reflect the railways' expansion - and the revival of the local building tradition. Rooks Hill Old Farm House at Bramley costs £430,000 from KF in Guildford or Weller Eggar, and White Thorns at Haslemere, now with an indoor swimming pool, £650,000 from Lane Fox. Finally, Pandora is a modern house in priced at £550,00 from



The roofscape of Loseby at Ewhurst, which Browns is selling for £750,000, shows how the building has grown



This Victorian cottage is on offer from Browns for £195,000



A treat in Surbiton - 124 Maple Road

a mid-19th century town house, which is Regency in style with a double bow-front and a portico with Ionic columns. Jackson-Stops is seeking offers over £195,000. But Surbiton is not typical of Surrey. There are also few Georgian houses. Broadbridge Farm at Burstow is a Georgian box but the upper part, in best local fashion, is clad in hanging tiles. This eccentric combination costs £450,000 from Knight Frank in Tunbridge Wells. Other Georgian houses are Ham Manor at Cobham

(Browns, £700,000) and the half-timbered Summers at West Horsley (Hamptons in East Horsley, £475,000). Two Edwardian houses reflect the railways' expansion - and the revival of the local building tradition. Rooks Hill Old Farm House at Bramley costs £430,000 from KF in Guildford or Weller Eggar, and White Thorns at Haslemere, now with an indoor swimming pool, £650,000 from Lane Fox. Finally, Pandora is a modern house in priced at £550,00 from

Cadogan's Place Leasehold changes

Parliament has potentially good news for leaseholders. The House of Commons committee reviewing the Housing Bill has made important changes in their favour to the existing laws. But do not celebrate yet. Wait until the revised bill emerges from the House of Lords (where several freeholders are members) with none of these amendments revoked. Provided the bill remains intact, flat-owners in mixed blocks with flats over shops or offices will qualify more easily for collective enfranchisement. At present, if more than 10 per cent of the block is commercial, they do not qualify. A committee amendment changes this to 25 per cent. Thus, if each floor has the same area, the block need only be four floors rather than 10, which will help people in flats in low-rise 1960s shopping blocks. Another amendment eliminates the "low" ground rent test. Those paying more than £1,000 a year should still qualify for enfranchisement. Tenants in flats win the right to manage the common areas through a management company, which should stop unscrupulous landlords from charging disproportionate sums for "managing" these areas. These amendments were passed at the Commons committee stage because David Ashby, the Tory MP, and Cecil Walker, an Ulster Unionist, voted with the Labour MPs who had proposed them. But the government also introduced an important amendment. There will be sanctions to give force to the rules requiring landlords to offer their freeholds to offer them first to sitting leaseholders. If they do not, landlords and their professional advisers may be prosecuted.

Dartmoor prison, one of the bleakest spots in the British Isles? The answer from the brave soul who buys the church there, of St Michael and All Angels, can only be "no". The diocese of Exeter is selling the church for £40,000 through Michelmore Hughes of Ashburton (01394-564333). The church's story is bleak. French prisoners of war built most of it, in granite, between 1810 and 1814 - to the plan of an architect called Pulpit. Further work came from American prisoners of war, 218 of whom died (as a memorial in the church records). It needs faith to convert this building. The diocese suggests that it could be used for housing, shops, workshops, a museum or restaurant, subject to planning approval from the Dartmoor National Park Authority.

New doors and windows in the walls of a grade II* building will probably not be allowed, but roof lights, which cannot be seen from the ground outside, should be permissible.

Kit Martin, who resurrects the grandest British stately homes by making vertically divided houses in them, is a man of faith.

His latest scheme to come to market is the 1800-1811 Royal Naval Hospital at Great Yarmouth in Norfolk, designed by Sir Henry Pilkington and now listed grade II*.

The first occupants of the magnificent brick buildings set around a quadrangle were sailors from the Battle of Copenhagen, whom Nelson came to visit.

Nearly two centuries later, Martin is turning the hospital into 60 dwellings of different sizes. The first batch is now on sale, at prices from £20,000 to £85,000 through Aldreds in Great Yarmouth (01493-944881) or Strutt & Parker in Norwich (01606-617431).

Is it fair to call Princetown on Dartmoor, home of the

Gerald Cadogan

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ARTS

The Crane Kalman Gallery cannot resist, it seems, turning an exhibition, no matter how modest, into an art historical event - always beautifully researched and enthusiastically presented within the narrow scope its small gallery allows. Always there will be something fresh and surprising on the wall, always some new story to tell. Its special field is Modern British Art, with a particular leaning towards the pre-war avant garde.

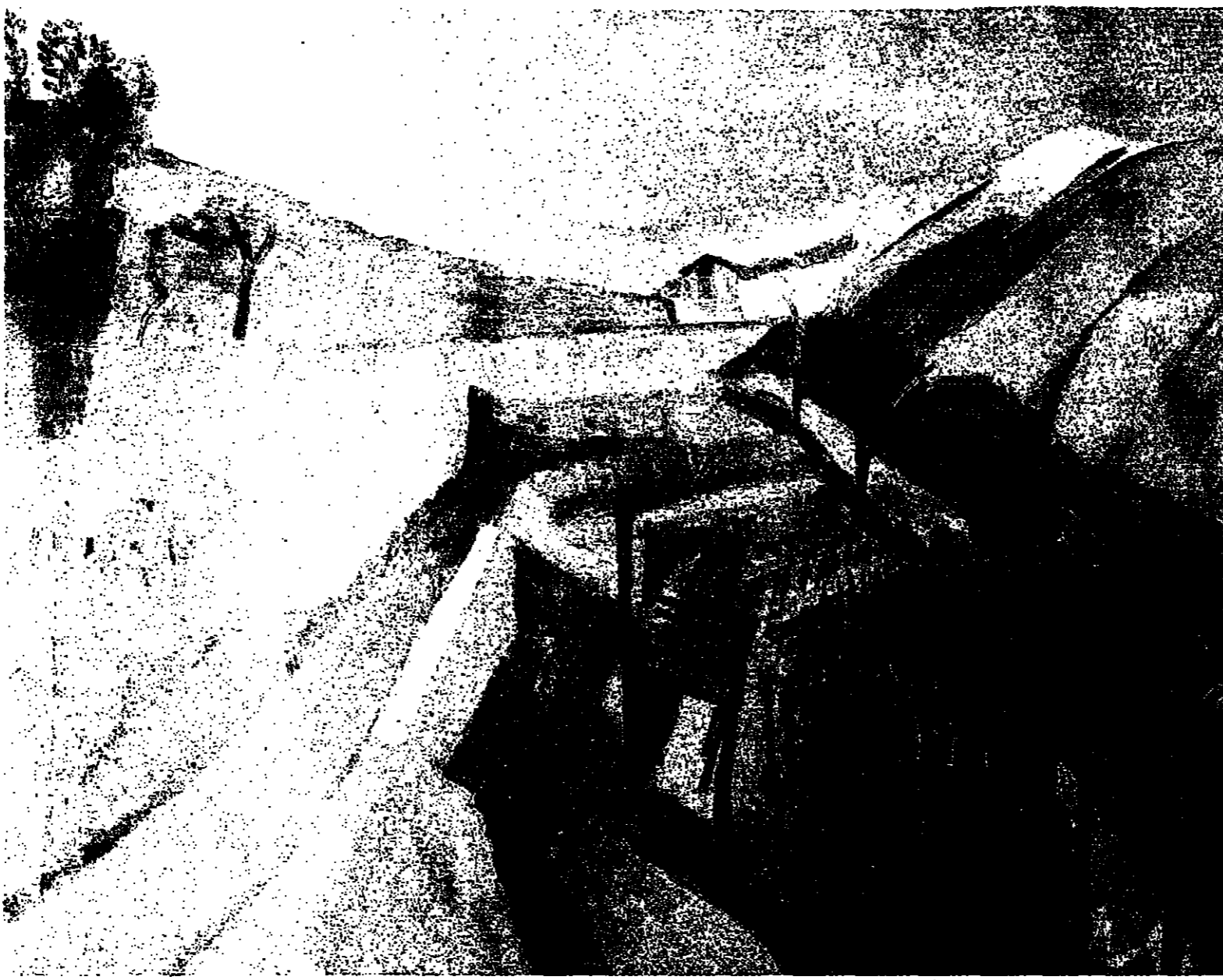
This latest show takes as its subject Ben Nicholson's relationship as an artist with his first two wives, who were themselves both artists. Winifred Roberts, grand-daughter of the 9th Earl of Carlisle, whom he married in 1920 when he was 26, was about his own age; Barbara Hepworth, whom he married in 1931 and married in 1934, some nine years his junior.

Keen on women but, as Norbert Lynton puts it in the catalogue, not much of a family man, he had two sons and a daughter by Winifred before domesticity drove him away, and triplets by Barbara - a son and two daughters - almost the minute they were married. Someone was clearly trying to make a point.

The second marriage foundered in 1931, which hurt Barbara deeply and her subsequent relations with Ben were distant at best. Winifred, however, always remained on good, even close terms with him, and a regular correspondence continued into the 1970s. But while each marriage lasted, each partner was clearly a mutual creative stimulus to the other, which is the point of this show.

Ben Nicholson's standing as an artist hardly needs rehearsal here. As for Barbara Hepworth, she went on to establish an independent international reputation to match, at the very least, that of her former husband. Winifred, by contrast, has always remained a comparatively minor figure - her reputation more one of association - though she does have a loyal coterie of followers persuaded as much by her Christian Scientist principles as by the actual quality of her work. The true story, so this show suggests, is not quite as simple as all that.

For Ben Nicholson, by conventional assessment the more serious and substantial artist of the three, is shown by every fresh examination of his work to have been one who needed constantly to feed off the originality of others in order to supply his own. The debt he owed his father, William, for exam-



'Corbiavallo', 1923, by Ben Nicholson: Winifred Nicholson influenced his figurative work and Barbara Hepworth his purity of form

Marriage of three talents

William Packer on the work of Ben Nicholson and his wives Winifred and Barbara Hepworth

ple, has yet to be fully totted up. He consciously set himself to escape that paternal influence by his mannered, decorative, faux-naïf simplicity of the 1920s. Yet the father's clarity of vision and pictorial discipline, his subtle yet incisive line and delicacy of touch, are manifest in everything the son ever did.

But that is for another exhibition to explore. Here the point is that again, with his creative antennae ever finely tuned to which current developments might be of immedi-

ate use to him, Ben took from those closest to him at least as much as he ever gave. Braque in Paris in the 1920s, with his decorative softening of late-Cubist still life; Christopher Wood in England and Brittany with his sophisticated directness and naivety; yes, of course he would pick up on what was going on elsewhere. By how much more, then, would he notice what his wives were doing.

From Barbara, in the early 1930s, he got the purity of form that would lead him, albeit selectively, from an increasingly abstracted figuration into pure abstraction. But it was she, whatever he or Henry Moore might have said, who had had the radical nerve to get there first, and here was always to remain the firmer commitment. Winifred's influence upon him through the previous decade was less obvious and direct, though the evidence here is that it was no less real. In his figurative aspect, to her too, he was to remain ever in debt.

Her work of the 1920s is her best. There is to it an unforced painterliness and delicacy of touch, and an unselfconscious charm in her disposition of her subject that, in following her, Ben would only make sharper and more knowing. With Ben there is always an exquisite edge and precision to the work, with Winifred always a celebration.

Culture from Copenhagen

Richard Fatman finds the Danes trumpeting their music across Europe

No other city has prepared for its year as cultural capital of Europe with a bigger fanfare. With no expense spared Copenhagen sent its opera and ballet companies on tour last autumn, starting in London and then doubling the publicity with a last-minute cancellation in Paris in protest at France's nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

Now the year has arrived and Copenhagen is having to live up to the expectations that have been raised. Within the city the prestige of being cultural capital is seen as giving the arts a more influential place on the political agenda. The Royal Danish Opera will be presenting more new productions than at any time before, arguing that being cultural capital is such a high profile occasion that the money simply has to be found, and having set this benchmark, the company is hoping that similar funds will be forthcoming in future years as well.

Another side benefit is that arts organisations within the city have been brought together in collaboration. This autumn the Royal Danish Opera has invited in the period-instrument Concerto Copenhagen, directed by Reinhard Goebel, to play for its production of Handel's *Xerxes*. A month later it takes the premiere of a new opera, *Dommen* by Niels Rosing-Schow, out to the performance theatre in the newly-built Museum for Modern Art.

It has become one of the aims of the cultural capital programmes to ensure that some tangible monument remains when the year itself is over. In Copenhagen, the Museum for Modern Art will hold that honour, a major new public building designed for architectural prestige, much in line with the kind of projects that the Millennium Commission is pursuing in Britain. Its striking, boat-like hull, beached to the south of the city, is already the photo most often seen to sum up the cultural year.

The musical monument destined to last beyond the end of 1996 is the Copenhagen Singing Competition "in memoriam Lauritz Melchior", and The Danes have decided to remind the world how successful a nation of opera-singers they have been by inaugurating their own singing award to well up from below, the music can build into an irresistible tidal wave. There is nothing better than seeing a company in its own theatre performing one of its national operas. This performance had strengths in both the chorus and soloists. Aage Haugland made Saul the outstanding personality, as the role demands. Majken Bjerno sang Mikal, Saul's daughter, with confidence and Kurt Westi as David, Iyr in hand, looked and sounded like a budding Tannhäuser. An unexpected extra was surtitles in English - a welcome nod towards foreign visitors happily in the spirit of the "cultural capital" year.

greatest composer - Carl Nielsen - has not travelled as widely as it should. One is the poor state of the performance material and so the government has allocated Dkr4.5m over three years for the first stage of a nine-year project to publish a complete Carl Nielsen Edition. The editor-in-chief, Niels Martin Jensen, hopes that the availability of newly-corrected scores and instrumental parts will encourage more performances.

The other problem is the language. It is not every opera company that is prepared to send its singers off for a six-month course in Danish, as the Sarasota Opera in Florida did before it put on *Maskarade* last year. Still, Nielsen's operas have begun to make more headway. Decca is due to make a new recording of *Maskarade* with the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra, using the new edition, in the summer; and the Royal Danish Opera has chosen the opera for the first new production of its action-packed 1996/7 season in August.

In the meantime the company has also brought back Nielsen's other opera - *Saul og David*, a still greater rarity. Opera-lovers outside Denmark generally know it from recordings or not at all. (In Britain, there was a concert performance only at the Barbican, a highlight of the big Scandinavian festival a few years back.) The Danish production settled for a semi-abstract style with medieval trappings - an obvious way to treat the opera, though not the most imaginative. It looked and felt staid, like Bayreuth productions in the era after Wieland Wagner, when modernism had become a duty rather than a necessity. In fact, Wagner seems to have been the dramatic model (though not the musical) in Nielsen's mind. Saul's visit to consult the Witch of Endor is clearly a re-living of Wotan's meeting with Erda in *Siegfried*, and nearly as imposing in this performance.

The fine orchestra of the Royal Danish Opera, conducted by Poul Jorgensen, has this music coursing through its veins. Nielsen's score may be emotionally detached in a cool Scandinavian way, but when his energy starts to well up from below, the music can build into an irresistible tidal wave. There is nothing better than seeing a company in its own theatre performing one of its national operas. This performance had strengths in both the chorus and soloists. Aage Haugland made Saul the outstanding personality, as the role demands. Majken Bjerno sang Mikal, Saul's daughter, with confidence and Kurt Westi as David, Iyr in hand, looked and sounded like a budding Tannhäuser. An unexpected extra was surtitles in English - a welcome nod towards foreign visitors happily in the spirit of the "cultural capital" year.

There are various reasons why the music of Denmark's

Or of course drop dead in a soap opera. Guy Pemberton has gone at last; his insanely treacherous benevolence will never rot my fillings again. Is it too much to hope that Caroline will be found guilty of poisoning him with one of Phil's recipes? Meanwhile Radio 4 contributed wonderfully to the national sense of occasion when last Monday's lunchtime repeat of *The Archers*, the first episode since the death, was cut off through technical difficulties causing dyspepsia through the script's isle. How Coward would have laughed.

Radio/Martin Hoyle

Memories of things past

grief and contempt, your disbeliever-in God knows what you make of Britain now.

Recent books have given glimpses of Coward the name-dropper, social-climber and philistine, even the bully. But *Noël Coward - from His Diaries*, edited and introduced by Tony Stavacre on Radio 4, selects the jewels and makes compulsive listening. Last week's opener was shot through with melancholy,

especially in the terrible conviction that the young Battle of Britain pilots had died for nothing since the values they defended have vanished. Next week's cheerier selection takes in his late blossoming as a cabaret star in America, the centre of a crowd that included names like Sinatra, Garland and Goldwyn, but manages to avoid Luvviness.

Coward had a gift for the sudden sharp image and the sudden, haunting perception, as when noting the stoic English seaside and "children advancing mauve with cold into the cheerless waves", or the wonderment at Churchill's emotional immaturity - the great man "has lived less than I". The world evoked by these diaries seems ancient, historic. This has nothing to do with chronology, everything to do with the attitude of the speaker. The late Simon Cadell does a fine job: no imitation, but the right cadences, weight and precision, the man is captured.

More reminiscences, overlapping with Coward's, seemed infinitely more up to date, and not merely because their protagonist is sparkily alive. At 88 Sir Frank Roberts is the *Key Witness* of another new series (it follows Coward immediately on Wednesday evening). He seems to have been present at most momentous occasions and to have known the century's most famous, and infa-

Early British and Victorian Paintings



Pietro Fabris - Old Whitehall, sold recently for £28,500. We are currently accepting entries for our Sale of Fine Early British and Victorian Paintings, to be held 18th June 1996. Closing date: 1st May 1996. Enquiries: John Dabney on telephone 0171-468 8201.

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Musical/Antony Thorncroft

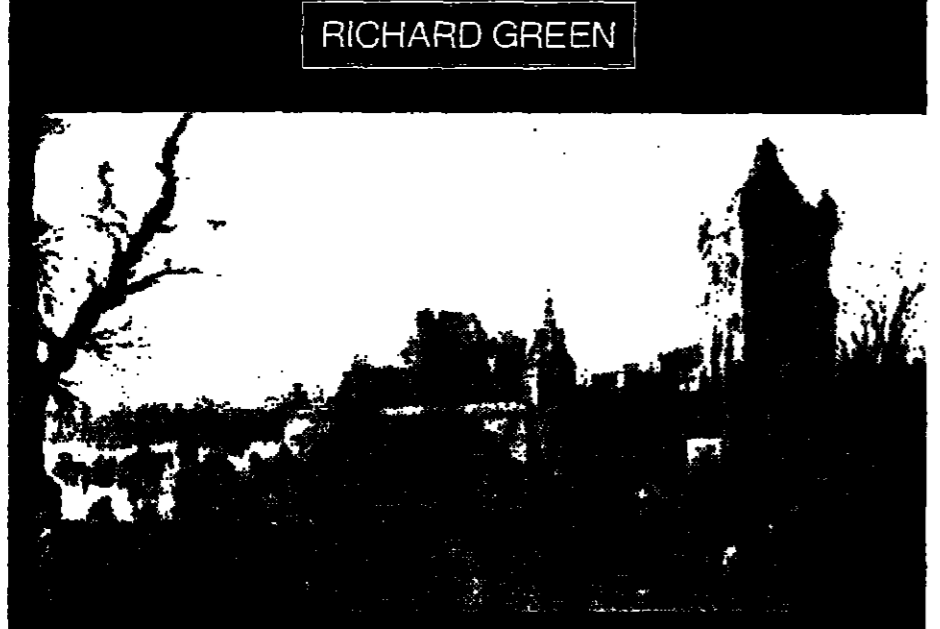
For Elvis fans only

Why is it that Elvis Presley, the indisputable first cant of rock and roll, of pop music, of youth culture, of modern society, is so deeply unfashionable? If only he had died in his trim 20s rather than in his grotesque 40s he would have the respect and affection of all. But nothing can erase the pitiful movies, the sad Las Vegas years, the reclusive binges in Graceland: it was a great American tragedy.

And nothing of this fascinating morality tale disturbs the facile flow of *Elvis - The Musical*. This is one for the besotted fans, but I doubt that there are enough of them to support a rather charmless revival of a show which first disturbed the public in 1977. The impression is that, like some old gramophone, for almost two decades it has been slowly winding down around the country, playing smaller and smaller

venues when suddenly, to fill a space, it re-emerges in the West End. The formula is so predictable, a template of countless musical biogs of recent years; a concert of Elvis songs, with some minimal information about the life provided by back projections of old films and slides. It is about as illuminating as a rear light. With little to catch the eye the attention tends to wander. There is plenty to muse on. There is the gritty determination with which the backing band seize their brief acting careers, gagging like mad, like children in a nativity play. There is the sad trick of fate that doomed Tim Whitnall, who played Young Elvis in 1977, to grow quite un-Elvis Presley in the intervening years, so that his performance as Middle Period Elvis is quite disconcerting. There is P.J. Proby, who seems to have spent more time being Elvis than Elvis, struggling with a wig, the lyrics, and a vocal every better suited to the parade ground, as once again he takes a stab at the later years. There are the girl dancers, miming the routines of their pantomime years. The saddest criticism came from the audience which was too battered and apathetic to seize its cue. In the quite routine finale it was scheduled to take to the aisles and boogie. Instead it sat like inmates of a nursing home, passively experiencing a visiting entertainment. *Elvis - The Musical* is basically pointless. Its pleasures are the memories of the rough ensayo of early Elvis: "Don't be cruel", "Mystery Train", "My baby left me", appealingly put over by Young Elvis (Alexander Bar). Like the man himself, the production cannot escape a long decline to the grave. At the Prince of Wales Theatre

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BOOKS

A spiritual legacy from disbelief to cultism

Ian McEwan on a tumultuous century of family life in the US

That grand 19th-century ambition to make of the novel a version of society, hierarchic and flawed but teeming all-inclusive, has never quite faded from the American literary dream despite the anti-democratic instincts of modernism and the fact that American every-day life itself, in its overwhelming extravagance of event and racial contradiction, appears to outstrip literary invention and defy synthesis. Two novelists above all, Saul Bellow and John Updike, have risen to the task of encompassing this, the American century, and perhaps it is some measure of their success that they have been attacked so bitterly by those who have felt excluded from, or misrepresented by, their accounts. Both writers have embraced, however ambivalently, privately wrought religions of fine distinctions, and both have looked for their country's spiritual condition in the ruin of its cities and in the seductions and assaults of mass culture;

IN THE BEAUTY OF THE LILIES
by John Updike

Hamish Hamilton £16, 512 pages

and in both men, disappointment is tempered - or enlivened - by celebration.

In *The Beauty of the Lilies* submits expansively to this pattern. It covers four generations in four long chapters, each of which ends with a stark two word formulation, the very last of which is - "The children" - a parting reminder that this is a novel about legacy, spiritual legacy. These children - "too many to count" - are being led by their mothers from the flames that are destroying the besieged Waco-like headquarters of a religious cult.

Grotesquely excessive belief closes a novel that opens, 80 years before, in 1910, when an intellectually fastidious Presbyterian preacher, Clarence Wilmot, loses his faith and bequeaths the consequences to his son, Teddy, his granddaughter, Essie and finally his great grandson, Clark whose aimless existence takes on purpose once he signs up with the apocalyptic adventists.

When Clarence announces his decision to leave the church he is called to justify himself before one Mr. Dreaver, a mandarin of the ecclesiastical bureaucracy. The theological discussion, as impacted as the postulates of quantum mechanics, brings us close to Updike's own religion, at least as expressed in his book *Self-Consciousness*. It represents the furthest reaches faith and rational materialism can penetrate together before parting company - very low church indeed. But even - or perhaps, especially - a religion

as reasonable as this cannot withstand Clarence's readings of Nietzsche, Darwin and other scientists, or the church's automatic support for the free market and the mill owners against the strikers. Clarence resists Dreaver's sophisticated entreaties, the living is lost, the family takes a downward lurch socially, and at this point, sonata-like, and at this point, sonata-like, the novel's second subject is elaborated.

For as Clarence's second career as an encyclopaedia salesman descends to grinding failure, he begins to seek afternoon sanctuary in a new kind of church - the silent-movie houses where, in "a trance as infallible as opium's" he finds solace in another life that can never be his own. From here on in, mass culture as represented by the dream industry of Hollywood films is offered as religion's substitute, and frequently described in its terms. Nourishment is not to be had, of course - "watching the movies took no strength, but recovering from them did." And each afternoon Clarence faces the harsh return from this "scintillating bath" back into "the bleak facts of life, his life gutted by God's withdrawal." The baton of unbelief and narrative attention passes to Clarence's youngest son, Teddy, who finds no agony in God's absence and who survives by dint of low ambition and steady heart to become the novel's presiding spirit, alive as an old man on the last page to see the TV reports of the siege in which his grandson - in a last minute access of skepticism - sets free the women and children and dies for his pains.

As Teddy grows up, marries a local girl with a malformed foot and becomes the town's postman, world events rumble and thunder off-stage, and cinema finally acquires a voice and later, welcomes Teddy's only child, Essie, who becomes the star of the novel's third section and of Hollywood's golden age. She in turn spawns a fourth chapter, Clarke, a child whom she neglects for a sequence of husbands and dedicated worship at celebrity's shrine. The poor rootless boy matures into an unsuccessful movie producer, troubled by a need for answers neither his grandfather nor his CIA uncle can quite satisfy.

Certainty of a crazed kind comes at last in the cult leader, Jesse, who is obsessed by sex, guns and Revelation, and who preaches faith in its blindest, wildest, least Updikean form. In *The Beauty of the Lilies* is the most readable and enjoyable Updike since the last in the tetralogy, *Rabbit at Rest*. It is a lordly achievement in its leisure and sprawl. Indeed, a certain authorial *arrogance* appears to be exercised here in the relentless and sometimes cloying accumulation of detail, in the occasional cliché, in moments of emotional incontinence and in a long reconstruction of the world from a child's point of view when a Joycean handful of pages would have sufficed; and in the second half of the novel especially, magisterial claim is laid to a high style - long, under-punctuated sentences whose subordinate clauses wind round phrasal verbs on monosyllabic strings, suggesting not the godly Proust whom Updike warmly invokes in his essays, but the self-pleasuring Henry James of the final novels.

The implication is that with so much fine work behind him Updike can expect his reader to indulge him and accept the flaws as so much human blemish to be set alongside and give



An Asia of many parts

I was once chatting with one of Singapore's few opposition MPs in the lobby of a local hotel. The politician was attacking the notion of Asian values - the idea that there is some form of uniform value system linking all the diverse peoples of Asia which in turn accounts for the region's recent economic success.

"Take sex for instance" he said. "The Singapore government likes to say that Asians, in contrast to people in the west, are conservative about sexual matters. Yet look at Japan. It is the only country I know that has invented used-knicker vending machines."

Ian Burama has taken a wide ranging look at Asians and their values. He is also something of an expert on Japanese and sex: he points out this can be decidedly kinky, with a heavy helping of cruelty and violence. Burama also has a great deal of knowledge on other matters - from Bengali literature to Nazi film making to Korean architecture.

His observations are sharp and often amusing. But this collection of pieces is rather jumbled and disconnected. To the best of my knowledge Burama is in good health. Yet this reads like some posthumous compendium hurriedly pushed together by a publisher intent on earning a few bob while the body is still warm.

We swing from the works of the wonderfully named Japanese novelist Yoshimoto Banana to Burama's thoughts on Wilfred Thesiger and Baden Powell. Baden Powell loved acting in drag and watching soldiers "trooping in to be washed in nature's gurb, with their strong well built naked wonderfully made bodies."

Meanwhile we are told that Thesiger was a dab hand at circumcisions, a service he performed with considerable relief during his time with the Marsh Arabs of Iraq. Interesting stuff, but I did begin to wonder where it was all going. Taken singly, many of these essays are superb. There is a fulsome description of the Philippines and the showbiz and cruelty that made up the Marcos regime. Imelda Marcos went off into exile singing Irving Berlin songs and feeling betrayed by the US. "It was sincere and deeply humiliating, in the way that squabbles over money in a warehouse are humiliating. Mrs Marcos's tears were like the tears of a hooker who feels she has not been paid enough for her services."

Burama cuts through much of the tosh that is talked about Hong Kong and its future. There is a view, prevalent in the higher echelons of the business community, that little will change next year when a giant effigy of Chris Patten is fired across the harbour and China's geriatric leaders stumble ashore to reclaim their own.

Burama says such a vision of the future ignores the past. "Virtually throughout its history the rulers of China did everything in their power to deny their cities precisely what Hong Kong has been promised." No amount of kowtowing to Beijing by big business will save the day. The traditional instinct of China's leadership is not to let the flowers of business bloom by encouraging the free pursuit of riches, but to control and to squeeze.

Hong Kong might have a great deal of economic energy. But it has no past, no future and no real identity with which to battle Beijing's mandarins.

Perhaps part of the confusion of Burama's book lies in the nature of Asia itself. The term Asia is an invention of Empire, used to bridge vastly different ethnic populations living under the colonial wing. "Indeed, the phrase 'Asian values' only really makes sense in English. In Chinese, Malay or Hindi, it would sound odd. Chinese think of themselves as Chinese, and Indians as Indians (or Tamils, or Punjabis)."

Originally much of the drive behind the idea of a distinctly Asian value system came from Japan. Japan's business leaders such as Sony's Akio Morita and right wing politicians such as Ishihara Shinaro stressed the uniqueness of Japan - its devotion to work, loyalty to company, love of work and so forth. Japan's superior culture explained its economic power.

A group of western scholars described as neo-orientalists by Burama supported the view that the Japanese owed their strength to being not only dev-

ilishly clever, but fundamentally different to their counterparts in the west. With the Japanese economy suffering from an extended period of malaise, these theories are being revised.

The baton of Asian values has now been picked up by the tiger economies, in particular Singapore. Burama points out several contradictions: Singapore is the most westernised state in Asia. Those who are most ferociously anti-western and shout loudest about Asian values are not the island republic's Chinese or Indian speaking inhabitants but its westernised, English speaking elite who live in make-believe European- or Californian-style homes.

Burama describes Singapore as the nanny state of Asia. The idea of Asian values, which includes respect for authority and the rights of the community above those of the individual, is used by its leaders to endorse their particular brand of authoritarianism. "We decide what's right" says Lee Kuan Yew. "Never mind what the people think."

Thank goodness that many Asians refuse to take part in this cultural mythology. Burama tells a delightful story about a group of Indonesian dignitaries who flew from Jakarta to see their fellow countrymen in Irian Jaya. The visitors were dismayed to be greeted by tribesmen dressed in little but their erect and elongated penis sheaths.

"They were told to dress in future like respectable Indonesians. But the Papuans were not so easily cowed. The next time a government representative arrived in Jayapura (the Irian capital) he was greeted by a line of half naked men who showed their patriotism by flying little Indonesian flags from their sheaths."

Kieran Cooke

High-tech leads to higher-tech

When we speak about new technology, we forget how new the old technologies still are. This intriguing collection is a series of attempts at remembering, the better to understand how our perceptions are shaped by our own inventions.

The title refers to a technology which might have been Babbage's difference engine: imagined by that perennially frustrated polymath in the 1830s; reimaged by science-fiction novelists Bruce Sterling and William Gibson who describe an alternative Victorian of steam-driven computers in a book named after Babbage's dream: finally built as a gleaming assembly of brass rods and gearwheels at the Science Museum in London in the 1990s - a Victorian machine which no Victorian ever saw.

This extraordinary history, in which Babbage's machine becomes descendant as well as forerunner of the modern digital computer, is used to open up a series of questions about imagination and technology. Why do some artefacts get built, not others? Why do some become powerful cultural symbols, while others turn into

taken-for-granted tools? It would sound otiose now to ponder the social significance of the fax machine, but who would be without it?

The Victorians were as pre-occupied with technological novelties as we are. The automata which so fascinated Babbage were already showing how ready people were to credit machines with intelligence. Simon Schaffer argues this was because the human intelligence which is actually built into the machine is invisible to spectators.

At the same time, technology was redefining what was visible, what invisible. Other, fully realised, technologies were attracting the Victorian gaze, as the visual world began to be transformed into something approaching its modern aspect. Microscopes adorned middle-class homes, photography began to fix the moment as a reproducible likeness, glass itself, only now made well enough to be a truly invisible barrier, altered cultural perception irrevocably. Scarcely were these assist-

ed than a new wave of innovations broke, Edison's phonograph, the telephone, radio broadcasts. A voice no longer implied the presence of a speaker. Virtual realities of the ear were added to those of the eye. As Gillian Beer's essay beautifully describes, "vagrant sound", which once implied magic, is now constantly accessible. There is a continual

global babble, which we switch in and out of at will. Beer also shows how radio formed new audiences, addressed in new ways, and became a technology which illustrated a new culture at the same time as advancing it. The new medium was eagerly taken up by popularisers of the new physics of the 1920s.

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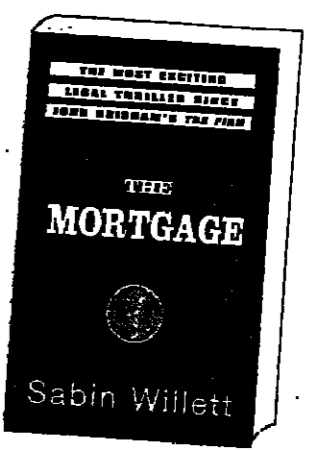
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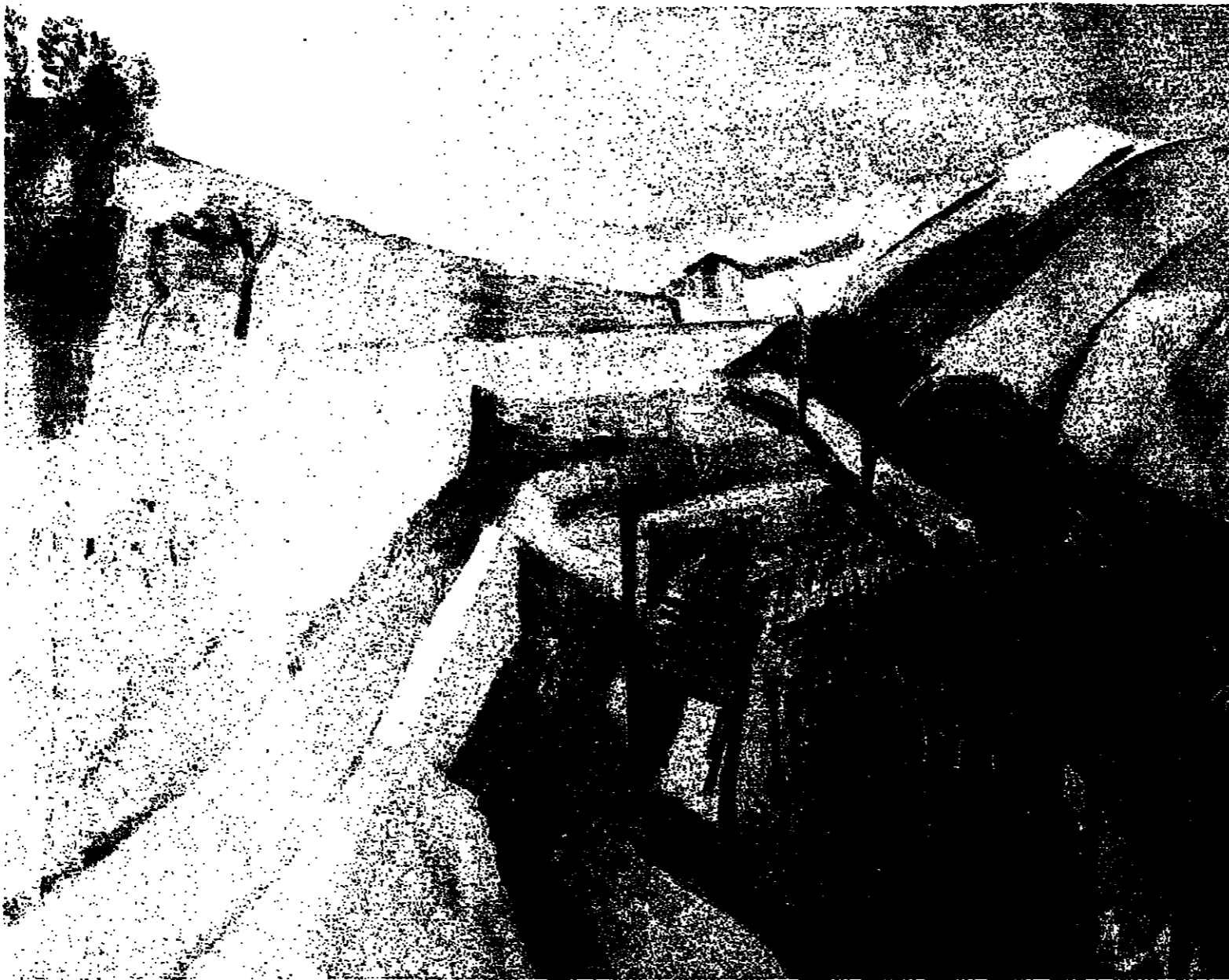
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ARTS

The Crane Kalman Gallery cannot resist, it seems, turning an exhibition, no matter how modest...

This latest show takes as its subject Ben Nicholson's relationship as an artist with his first two wives...

Ben Nicholson's standing as an artist hardly needs rehearsal here. As for Barbara Hepworth, she went on to establish an independent international reputation...



'Corbiavallo', 1923, by Ben Nicholson: Winifred Nicholson influenced his figurative work and Barbara Hepworth his purity of form

Marriage of three talents

William Packer on the work of Ben Nicholson and his wives Winifred and Barbara Hepworth

ple, has yet to be fully totted up. He consciously set himself to escape that paternal influence...

From Barbara, in the early 1930s, he got the purity of form that would lead him, albeit

selectively, from an increasingly abstracted figuration into pure abstraction. But it was she, whatever he or Henry Moore might have said...

best. There is to it an unforced painterliness and delicacy of touch, and an unselfconscious charm in her disposition of her subject...

From Barbara, in the early 1930s, he got the purity of form that would lead him, albeit

and Barbara Hepworth, no less subtle, is a burst of leaves and blooms. The boats ride in the harbour at St Ives...

Culture from Copenhagen

Richard Fatman finds the Danes trumpeting their music across Europe

No other city has prepared for its year as cultural capital of Europe with a bigger fanfare. With no expense spared Copenhagen sent its opera and ballet companies on tour last autumn...

Now the year has arrived and Copenhagen is having to live up to the expectations that have been raised. Within the city the prestige of being cultural capital is seen as giving the arts a more influential place on the political agenda...

Another side benefit is that arts organisations within the city have been brought together in collaboration. This autumn the Royal Danish Opera has invited in the period-instrument Concerto Copenhagen, directed by Reinhard Goebel...

It has become one of the aims of the cultural capital programmes to ensure that some tangible monument remains when the year itself is over. In Copenhagen, the Museum for Modern Art will hold that honour...

The musical monument destined to last beyond the end of 1996 is the Copenhagen Singing Competition "in memoriam Lauritz Melchior".

The initial plan was to make it a competition for Heldentenor only (a heroic line in which the Vikings have been particularly strong) but to widen the appeal entrance has sensibly been thrown open...

Whose voice is it lamenting that England, so rich in tradition and achievement, should betray itself and what it stood for by so wholeheartedly submitting to foolish government, natural laziness, woolly thinking...

grief and contempt, your disbeliever in God knows what you make of Britain now.

Recent books have given glimpses of Coward the name-dropper, social-climber and philistine, even the bully. But Noel Coward - from His Diaries, edited and introduced by Tony Stavacre on Radio 4...

especially in the terrible conviction that the young Battle of Britain pilots had died for nothing since the values they defended have vanished.

sudden, haunting perception, as when noting the stoic English seaside and "children advancing mauve with cold into the cheerless waves", or the wondrous at Churchill's emotional immaturity...

more so mild as to be dull. Jo Brand, the often funny, often rude and frequently aggressive comedian, talked to her mother. "You were a really traditional little girl who liked all the little girl things..."

Radio/Martin Hoyle

Memories of things past

So-called ordinary people can be fascinating. Up to a point. A new series, Relatively Speaking, places close relations together and lights the blue touch paper. Actually, the first

venues when suddenly, to fill a space, it re-emerges in the West End. The formula is so predictable, a template of countless musical biogs of recent years...

Musical/Antony Thornecroft

For Elvis fans only

Why is it that Elvis Presley, the indisputable first cant of rock and roll, of pop music, of youth culture, of modern society, is so deeply unfashionable?

And nothing of this fascinating morality tale disturbs the facile flow of Elvis - The Musical. This is one for the besotted fans, but I doubt that there are enough of them to support a rather charmless revival of a show which first disturbed the public in 1977.

than Elvis, struggling with a wig, the lyrics, and a vocal line every better suited to the parade ground, as once again he takes a stab at the later years.

At the Prince of Wales Theatre

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LUO JIANHUA of Kunming, China. Oil Paintings of Scotland and Yunnan. The Economist Building, 25, St. James's Street, London SW1. Wednesday 26th April - Saturday 11th May.

RICHARD GREEN. JAN VAN GOYEN 1596-1656. A loan exhibition commemorating the 400th anniversary of his birth. Wednesday 17th April - Saturday 11th May 1996. Closed Sundays, 3rd May & Bank Holiday Monday 6th May.

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1550 من الامم

ARTS

Out of tune in Never-Never land

Alastair Macaulay is not entertained by the latest revival of musical 'Salad Days'

If you badly need to know why the 1960s simply had to happen to England the way they did, you need look no further than the present revival of the once-loved 1954 musical Salad Days...

heroine marry for fun without love - ie to fend off sex and adult responsibility. Thirdly, the fact that falling in love changes them in no way whatsoever from their former End-Bytonish sweet family. Fourthly, the fact that half the cast spend half the musical looking for piano that will make you "gay" even though half of them behave as if they have found it.



Camp squab: Nicola Fulljames as Jane and Edward Baker-Duly as her admirer Nigel

New York Saleroom All hyped up over Jackie O

The auction of the estate of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, a four-day marathon starting in New York on Tuesday, is to the 1960s what the dispersal of the Duchess of Windsor's jewels sale was to the 1930s. Or so says Sotheby's, the impresario of the extravaganza that has all of New York - from taxi drivers to college professors - hoping for a piece of the action.

It is also besides the point. Jackie Onassis could not be described as a collector, nor did she think of herself as one. Her apartment was pretty, comfortable and understated. Her taste - for sporting pictures, modest French furniture, Chinese export porcelain, prints, books and just plain stuff - is a reminder of how the affluent in America used to live, before the arrival of the over-decorated, over-ornamented style that became fashionable in the 1980s.

your letter

Concerts/David Murray Mountains, magic and Mörk

The vision of Silver Mountain inspired the grinding, portentous Prelude and the succeeding Chaconne. Lake Titicaca shimmers in the third movement, and then a South American dance-rhythm (in slow motion) emerges to drive the explosive Finale.

Television/Ian Hargreaves Driven to Topless Darts

Think of it as a party game. You are at home on Saturday evening. You are alone or with someone you cannot stand. You don't have the energy to read. You're not in the mood for music or food or sex or walking the dog. Is it possible to enjoy an evening of television?

The London Symphony introduced us on Tuesday to Robin Holloway's new Third Concerto for Orchestra, op. 80 - an ambitious, expansive piece, some three-quarters of an hour long. Though the composer's programme-note insisted that "the purely musical workings... are entirely their own subject", he took care to explain the exotic beginnings of the work, on a South American journey he took 15 years ago.

Theatre/Ian Shuttleworth Clash of sex and class

The programme notes to the Actors Touring Company's latest production include a handy definition of theatrical naturalism. This is doubly helpful: it places Strindberg's play in a dramatic-historical context and also informs us what little respect director Nick Philippou pays to the presentational idea behind the piece.

Fidelio advertisement with logo and production details for the London Coliseum.

Advertisement for Gramophone Hi-Fi speakers, highlighting six-year-old British Hi-Fi manufacturer AVI.

Advertisement for the Royal Festival Hall, featuring a Brahms Violin Concerto and Schubert Symphony No. 9.

Advertisement for St. Joseph's Hospice, located at Mare St. London E8 4SA.

SPORT / MOTORING

Football / Simon Kuper

Croats try things the Wembley way

I was the first journalist to hear that Croatia would be playing England at Wembley (the match is on Wednesday). I was told about it in Zagreb on a freezing Sunday afternoon late last year by Miroslav Blazevic, Croatia's manager.

To England, the friendly is just another chance to bore 20,000-odd zealots and to see whether Paul Gascoigne has managed to lose any weight as this summer's European Championships draw near. To Croatia, also preparing for the championships, the game is an event in itself.

The team was to have paid its first ever visit to north west London last September. But the English called off the game after Croatian troops invaded the Serb-inhabited Krajina. Such was the fury in Zagreb at this snub that the British ambassador had to appear on Croat television to say it had nothing to do with him.

Franjo Tudjman, Croatia's president, took a break from making war to muse: "It would be very important for Croatia to play at Wembley." But he added: "Never beg anybody for anything. Let England invite us again."

Few presidents spend quite as much time setting up international football matches. Tudjman is a sports fanatic, but the main reason he follows soccer so closely is that he wants to build a nation. He sees himself as Croatia's George Washington, the man who makes Croats feel Croat.

He knows Croatia cannot conquer the world, because it has a smaller population than Denmark. But, quite by chance, it has a decent generation of footballers. Zvonimir Boban, Alen Boksic and Davor Suker are among the best in Europe.



Boban: among the best Tudjman wants to be accepted by the west, and so Wembley matters. The stadium is one of the enduring symbols of western Europe - as familiar as the Pantheon or the Champs d'Élysées - and to play there is to be accepted. Or so the president feels.

It is unlikely that this weekend's London Marathon, from Blackheath to Buckingham Palace, will enjoy the impact of its famous precursor, the 1908 Olympic race from Windsor to White City. But if it does, then people will still be talking about it 100 years on, at the end of the marathon's second century.

The race was "invented" for the first Modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896. Michel Bréal, a friend of the Games' resuscitator, Baron de Coubertin, suggested the long distance event, as a nod to Greek military history and the legends concocted over six centuries by an admixture of Herodotus, Ptolemy and Lucian, of a messenger named Philippides, who ran for 25kms in search of reinforcements for the Athenians in their battle against the Persians at the field of Marathon in 490BC.

The modern Greeks took to the idea immediately, and the marathon became the centrepiece of the 1896 Olympics (all the more justifiably when it was won by a Greek, Spyros (or Spyridon) Loui). The event suffered setbacks in the Olympics of 1900 in Paris and 1904 in St Louis, over allegations of cheating. But the impact of the 1908 London race was to be felt way beyond the confines of the Olympics, or the city and time in which it was held. In fact, the race probably ensured the survival of the event we know today.



Famous for not winning an Olympic gold medal, Dorando Pietri is helped over the finishing line after gargling a mixture of red wine and strychnine during the race

Marathon

Legendary Olympic loser takes all

Pat Butcher reveals that a cocktail of wine and strychnine was regarded as a pick-me-up at the 1908 Games in London

and turned the wrong way. Re-directed, he fell down half a dozen times within 100m. Everyone knew that he would be disqualified if assisted, but, eventually, help arrived. As the official Games report put it delicately: "It looked as if he might die in the very presence of the Queen."

Dorando revived sufficiently to be presented with a special gold cup by Queen Alexandra the following day. Yet, given that he was within 50 metres of victory, the royal family might have been blamed for Dor-

ando not winning the gold in the first place. Legend has it that the start in Windsor Great Park was brought inside the castle gates, so that the royal children could watch; and that the finish was extended so that the tape could be placed in front of the royal box at White City.

However, a history of Polytechnic Harriers, the club which organised the race, offers a far more prosaic view. In a pamphlet entitled, "From The Legend To The Living", an official, A.E.H. Winter, maintains that the race distance was extended

from the original 40kms because a professional race was planned on the same course, and the Olympic administrators were fearful that the pros would run faster. Hence the extra 2.196kms, making up the distance which was co-opted at the 1924 Olympics as the standard marathon length.

Johnny Hayes of the US was the official winner in London 1908, and is probably the least known Olympic marathon champion in history. Dorando became so famous for his misfortune that songs, including one by Irving Berlin, were written about him.

Alcohol was quite common. With three-quarters of the race run, Charles Hefferon of South Africa had a head of almost four minutes. He decided to celebrate early with a glass of champagne. Not unsurprisingly, he became dizzy, suffered from stomach cramps, and slacked off the pace. Dorando caught him less than a kilometre from the finish, just outside the stadium.

But the Italian was also having problems. For equally common in those days was a practice which today would bring down the wrath of the drugs testers: Dorando was gargling a mixture of red wine and strychnine, the latter being a common athletic tonic. Combined with the heat and humidity, it was to prove disastrous. He was fortunate it did not prove fatal.

He staggered into the stadium, and the current champions, since the demise of the amateur rules. As it is only possible to run two good marathons properly a year without burning out, the best restrict their appearances, and their price rises according to their rarity value. It is estimated that an Olympic champion can earn up to \$250,000 in a single race, including appearance money, and win bonuses.

The continuing popularity of the city centre races, where members of the public can, in theory, race

Olympic champions has barely abated. The original organisers of the Boston Marathon were the most perspicacious, creating a race in 1897, after attending the inaugural Olympic event in Athens.

Last Monday was the 100th running of the Boston. The Belgrade Marathon, including the Balkan Championships takes place today. London, Paris and Hamburg tomorrow; Madrid, Rotterdam and Wrocław next weekend. One hundred years, millions of kilometres... and counting.

Motoring / Stuart Marshall

Alfa performs so much beta

The worst mistake Alfa Romeo ever made was to dash for growth in the early 1970s by launching Alfasud into the high-volume end of the market. This front-wheel-driven people's car had an ecstatic reception and deserved its rave reviews. I know because I was at the launch and was as entranced as everyone else by its coltish liveliness, unburstable flat-four engine and pony handling.

But the part-time southern Italian peasant farmers and their sons who built the factory demanded and got jobs on the assembly line. Disciplined industrial toil was beyond their comprehension. Absenteeism broke records. Strikes were on the scale of British Leyland's in the best old days of Red Robbie. Build quality was poor. The Alfasud was unreliable, rusted in northern Europe and did nothing whatever for Alfa Romeo's reputation even though it was disowned at the marque's Milan

headquarters. It was, they said, "nothing to do with us". The mud, of course, stuck; it always does. But now the Alfasud is only a bad memory. Alfa Romeo, supported for several years by Fiat's financial muscle, is on the high of a production recovery. It has gone back to doing what it has been best at - making sporting cars for buyers who know a really good one when they see it.

Traditional Alfa Romeo buyers are going to be very happy with the new GTV and Spider. They have more than enough performance, handle impeccably and look a million dollars, although the prices, when they reach British showrooms next week, will be reassuringly down to earth at around £20,000 for the GTV, £22,000 for the Spider.

As part of its unfortunate foray with Alfasud, Alfa Romeo has always been at the gold cufflinks and Gucci loafers end of the market. Its milestone sports cars have included the 1900 Super Sprint Coupé

and Cabriolet of 1954, the Giulietta Sprint Coupé and Spider and GT Junior of 1968. Best known of all was the 1966 Spider Duetto. Can anyone who saw The Graduate ever forget Dustin Hoffman racing against time in his

that it demonstrated how much chassis design had progressed. Cornered hard on bumpy roads, the old Duetto bucked like a wild horse. The new GTV I drove in north-east Scotland a few days ago would not only have left the old car for dead; its exhilaration was matched by its comfort.

The GTV delighted the senses when given its head on the roads of Caithness

bright red two-seater to snatch his true love from the altar as she was about to marry the wrong man? The Spider Duetto, designed by Pininfarina, spanned almost three decades. It is a styling icon today, which is fine so long as you do not drive it. My main memory of spending a week with one in the mid-1980s was



Supermodel: the new Alfa Romeo GTV

My one real complaint is that the windscreen is so shallow and its top so low that after two or three hours I began to feel claustrophobic. But I am told that stunning good looks - and GTV and Spider really are supermodels - are rarely achieved without

some discomfort. The new cars feel rock solid and come with a three-year, 60,000-mile (100,000km) warranty.

Alfa Romeo (GB) reckons the GTV and Spider will compete mainly with the new Rover MGF, Audi Cabrio 2.0E, Saab 900 and BMW 320i convertibles

Vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring text and graphics for various services or products, including mentions of 'Principal', 'Bologna', 'Roma', 'Boston', and 'Buenos Aires'.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: "صوتنا من الامم"



James Morgan

No place for the great unwanted

It's quite worrying why up-market outfits might go to some lengths to avoid my patronage

The puff reads: "The purr of your high-powered engine dies away. The valet takes the key from your proffered hand, you are wadded by Regency-style elevator to our welcome desk where your personalised check-in awaits. You tread the plush Italian luxury carpet tiles in the oak-paneled corridor that ushers you to your preferred suite, knowing your favored 'tipple' has been placed in the exclusive en-suite bar by our ever attentive staff. You lay down in the folds of our exclusive overstuffed emperor-size bed, relax over a favorite TV programme, contemplate the enjoyment of our 'in-house' Jacuzzi and sports club..."

And then, perhaps, you throw up. The most famous remark about advertising, the one about half the money spent being wasted, is a cliché. And it is wrong. Half the money is spent to ensure a high-class product is not contaminated by association with people like me. There is a celebrated, perhaps apocryphal, story of the chic parfumeur who found he sold too much to the wrong sort of people. Research showed that these unwanted buyers hated jazz and monochrome pictures. So commercials, using both elements, were placed in a prime-time prole soap. Sales showed a gratifying slump. But it is worrying that so many suppliers of desirable items should do so much to avoid my patronage.

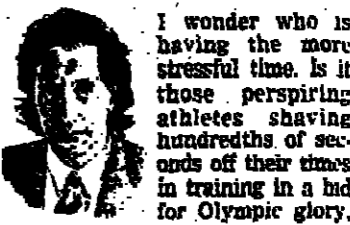
Thus, when BMW said its new model offered "More litres, less gallons", it became impossible for any self-respecting pedant to be seen dead in a BMW (if such an image is permitted in this context). Car commercials usually repel. Europe features playlets based on the seven deadly sins, lust and envy taking the key roles; the US has men in hideous suits shouting from suburban wastelands. Then there are the hotels. The Four Seasons chain has a domineering woman, clad in what she would call "luxury rainwear", and a yapping doglet, sturdily attired, bursting in and demanding that both garments be cleaned overnight. I would go to some lengths, a Holiday Inn in fact, to avoid

running into such a pair. A restaurant puff claims: "Celebrities, like all Radisson Edwardian's enchanting hotel restaurants, truly recapture the spirit of a golden era. [And we mean Edwardian, not Hollywood.] Just imagine what Oscar Wilde could have done if there had been such a "Celebrities" in his time. Let's be even more imaginative: open a medieval restaurant in the Tower of London and call it "The Astronaut". But the fact is that Celebrities Restaurant would rather not see the face that adorns this column scowling from its cheery throng of pop singers, fashion models and soap opera stars and has cleverly eliminated the risk. And no name-

factor of luxury cars would want my custom either, even if I had the money. Would he wish to see his fine product terminally unwashed on suburban streets, seats littered with sun-dried parking notices culled from downtown boroughs? The discriminating hotelier, meanwhile, prefers those who can take in their stride all his carefully constructed possibilities for instant gratification. Many of us could no more call for a plate of sushi at 4am than demand a cassette of *Mary Poppins*. Maybe it is the admen, not their clients, who reject us. They are the world-class consumers, so they naturally construct images they find seductive. It is they alone who believe their

constipated prose, synonymous as it is with the traditional elegance that enhanced the leisured lifestyle of a bygone, more gracious age. And advertising people like nothing better than the company of those like themselves. "You park the ancient Ford at a convenient meter and relax in line before receiving a form and a room key. You know nobody will bother you, apart from making up your room before 11am. Nobody will call you by your name or disturb you with expensive offers. The five starlets work and the structure is earthquake proof to 10 on the Richter scale." This would tell me someone wants me. James Morgan is BBC World Service economics correspondent.

Peter Aspden Faster, higher - and richer



I wonder who is having the more stressful time. Is it those perspiring athletes shaving hundredths of seconds off their times in training in a bid for Olympic glory, or the transport planners of Atlanta, Georgia, wondering how on earth they will move (take a deep breath) 2.2m spectators, 17,000 journalists, 10,500 athletes and 5,500 coaches and officials round this luckless city. These are two types of Olympic dream, after all: one of ultimate personal fanaticism, the triumph of body over mind; the other of smooth, clock-like precision, a victory for anonymous back-room planning. Both can turn all too easily into nightmares, whether it is the untimely tweak of an over-taut hamstring or a worst-case scenario traffic jam which brings the entire city to a standstill. But it is the sport itself, rather than the meticulous logistics behind it, that will fascinate an estimated global television audience of 4bn viewers this summer. That, if one pays any regard at all to the Olympic ideal, is as it should be. The motto of the Games is *citius, altius, fortius*, faster, higher, stronger; if Baron Pierre de Coubertin and his philhellene cohorts had meant to add "and don't forget the television rights", no doubt they could have dreamt up a witty piece of cod-classicism to warn us. But sentiment only takes us so far. Backward-looking romanticism lost out to modern-day power-broking when Atlanta won the 200th anniversary Games at the expense of Athens, furiously playing its nostalgia card when the rest of its hand consisted of petrol fumes, bad attitude and a general air of ill-impedation. Its bluff was duly called.

Romanticism lost out to modern-day power-broking when Atlanta won at the expense of Athens

Here was the ultimate lesson in modern sport: if you are going to hark back to 1896, make sure your city does not look like it has not received any investment since then. To run an efficient sporting tournament today, you need money. Sponsorship, media rights, licensing are the ostentatious offspring of the modern Olympic family, sporting ideals its ageing aunts. So sensitive is the International Olympic Committee on the issue of commercialism, however, that it has produced an extraordinary video. It shows what a 4 X 100 metres relay race would look like in an age of untrammelled sponsor-led programming. "Once upon a time," he said, unusually slowly, "I dramatised the St Matthew Passion. Very simple. Small stage. The music, and a few actors. It moved me - moved everyone involved in it, including the audience - like nothing else." He grimaced, broadly. "If you think about that story, what is so striking is how hasty it all was. Hasty arrest, hasty trial, impromptu denials, and so on. But the haste and the messiness somehow heighten the message." Miller lapsed into a moment of rare silence. "Uniquely tragic," he murmured. For one whose faith was in rationality, whose only discipleship was as one of the elite intellectual club of "Apostles" at Cambridge, and who describes himself as a "Jew by default", this was a key index of his profound and passionate humanism.

Lunch with the FT

A stream of large-talk from one of 'the top ones'

Nigel Spivey hears Jonathan Miller's views on science, religion, society and art

He chose roast cod. Food for the brain, as Jeeves would have said. But in this case, hardly necessary. Brain quite muscular enough without the stimulus of roast cod. From the moment that Jonathan Miller sat down it was clear that he was in the mood for vigorous intellectual exercise. This is not to say that small-talk was a depth to which he could not stoop. But large-talk is what he likes. And the intimidating fact is that it seems to spill from him both generously and spontaneously. We met in one of London's most pleasant places, Odette's on Primrose Hill. It is walking distance from the Miller residence. A waiter told me that he would surely recognise Dr Miller. "He is one of the top ones, out? All the top ones they live around here. Mr Pinter, Mr Bennett." And true to the anticipated arrival of the most learned of the top ones, Miller ranged into the restaurant carrying a pile of books. I opened briskly. Possibly I sensed that if I wanted to say anything during this encounter I had better get my contribution in sooner rather than later. "Now whatever else I do," I declared, "I am not going to call you a Renaissance man. You're simply not sporty enough. You couldn't, I mean, throw a cricket ball over the dome of Florence cathedral." "You're quite right," he said, tapping a packet of Silk Cut. Comfortingly (from a doctor) he managed much of his discourse with a cigarette hanging from his lips. "When I went to medical school I avoided all the rugby-playing ones. And all the overly Christian ones too - and all those with saints in their titles. That doesn't leave many. Just University College, really. An historically godless institution, presided over by the preserved genius of Jeremy Bentham in a glass case." "There you are," I said. "Not Renaissance, but Enlightenment man. Is that fair?" "The idea did not displease him. He leaned back and sent a preliminary puff to the ceiling. "I mean," I continued, "you believe we will be saved by our own



Jonathan Miller: one of his pet areas of research happens to be one of his best skills - the use of 'paralanguage'

me laugh at myself. Stops me getting pompous. Big Britain generally prevent intellectuals from getting pompous. "Like the French? Posturing windbags spouting balderdash? Yes. We've always got those leather-elbowed thugs like Richard Ingrams making sure we don't bring too much sensitivity into the country. "But you have to feel pity, at the other end, for the Sun readers. I have these exchanges with the Camden market stallholders, with them giving me the old 'gor, what is the world coming to guv?' line. I stop and say, 'Look, to you I'm a toff, and a yid: I'm part of your problem.' "They see boys dressed as girls, girls dressed as boys, tribal markings in the middle of London - their universe has just become incoherent. They're lost. And all they've got as heaven or hell is the National Lottery." He sighed, as if remedying the outlook of the average Camden market-trader was an intolerable

daily burden to him. He admits to being much happier in the rootless streets of New York. He became even more gloomy when the subject of John Birt's BBC was raised - on which his remarks are probably unrepeatable. This gloom provoked despair in another direction. "Why do liberals defeat themselves?" he suddenly demanded. "Why do they make such fools of themselves?" I gulped. With Miller, one is never quite sure what is coming next as a conversational tangent. "Example?" "Oh, you know. That teacher who wouldn't take her schoolchildren to see *Romeo and Juliet* on the grounds that it was the epitome of heterosexual love. The people who say that when Robert Mapplethorpe takes pictures of himself with a bullwhip up his arse, it's art. Retrayals of common sense like that. And good manners."

The printed word does not convey the proper force of Miller's discourse. One of his pet areas of research happens to be one of his best skills, which is the use of "paralanguage" - gestures, inflections, facial distortions and grunts and growls which nuance the meaning of what we say. His craggy Semitic features and his long arms add so much to what he says. "And good manners", for instance, carried the self-consciously fastidious tightening of his tie, with little finger cocked. "Good manners?" I queried. "Manners. Affections. As Anden said, there is nothing to despise in these. They are the means by which humanity raises itself by its bootstraps." He beamed. "Those wretched clumps. They can recognise their own reflection. Just five DNA spaces away from us."

How long I could have continued playing Boswell to Miller's Johnson I do not know: certainly we went well beyond pudding. The waiter who had wanted to see one of the top ones in action was given good value. We eventually ended our meeting with what I take to be a crucial qualification of Miller's earlier admission of straight atheism. I asked him which of his many and varied productions had given him most satisfaction. "Once upon a time," he said, unusually slowly, "I dramatised the St Matthew Passion. Very simple. Small stage. The music, and a few actors. It moved me - moved everyone involved in it, including the audience - like nothing else." He grimaced, broadly. "If you think about that story, what is so striking is how hasty it all was. Hasty arrest, hasty trial, impromptu denials, and so on. But the haste and the messiness somehow heighten the message."

The trouble is that Religion gives religion a bad name. Tony Blair's mild confession that his reading of the Christian Gospel tended towards a vision of mutually supportive community rather than individualist acquisitiveness is a case in point. Many Christians might feel he had been altogether too mimsy in affirming his belief. The reaction of the media and the politically garrulous is frankly so bizarre that anyone of a psycho-analytic turn of mind must wonder where all that frenzy has been displaced from. One conclusion we may draw is that religion is still a significant psychic force in our society, and therefore of considerable political sensitivity. The rush to anathematise anyone who suggests that religion and politics are inevitably and properly intertwined may be driven by those who fear that the synalogs of Rome or Canterbury are mobilising the forces of fanaticism on the wrong side. Do I hear shrieks of rage from the

Truth of the Matter / Hugh Dickinson

There is such a thing as society

cabinet or the 1922 Committee when an archbishop murmurs (they seldom shout these days) that the increase of wealth is a legitimate goal for society? I do not. But when a bishop says that that wealth should be responsibly and fairly distributed the roof falls in. Let us try to be fair. Religion has too often been used as a tool of state with disastrous results. Religions have taken over states or parties with catastrophic consequences. The notion of a Christian state or a Christian political party is fraught with dangers both for the Church and for the community. Deception or imprisonment or taxation in the name of Christ (or Allah or Jehovah) is morally and politically disastrous - especially for the victim. God must never have

a seat on the bench or in the cabinet, for that leaves no final moral court of appeal. Dictators, it is said, hate laughter because it is a sign of freedom. They also hate religion because it involves an authority beyond their own, as Roman emperors found to their cost. That is just the point. True religion is always beyond, never party to, a regime. There are also many parallel warnings to the Church, or any religious institution, which gets into bed with those in power. Many Anglicans believe that the Church of England has cohabited with the political establishment in the UK far too easily for its own health, and Roman Catholic alliances with the military juntas of South America have been at terrible

cost in terms of freedom and justice. Authoritarian regimes and authoritarian religions are natural allies and equally despicable. But that is not the whole story. The (cooperatively) bloodless revolution in South Africa is surely a hugely persuasive argument for the benefits of a shared vision which has its roots in a deeply religious system of values. Not only the leaders of the ANC - many schooled in the Christian missions by Trevor Huddleston - but many white South Africans nurtured in the Dutch Reformed Church, found themselves speaking a common language of forgiveness and reconciliation across the chasm of apartheid. There are many secular witnesses to the crucial significance of those shared religious val-

ues in the evolution of the new South Africa. The conclusion to which I come personally is not so far from Tony Blair. Right-wing libertarians argue that religion is essentially private and personal and must be kept out of the public domain. It is true that the teaching of Jesus is mainly (not entirely) addressed to the individual. But the vision and the values he taught have an ineluctable logic for communities and society as a whole. Within 20 years of Christ's death, Paul is extrapolating from the basic moral and spiritual vision into radical insights about community life and the whole national identity. The abolition of the wall between Jew and Gentile has huge political consequences. Picking a text here and there can prove anything and nothing. My own reading of the overall thrust and ethos of Christianity, which balances its many different strands and emphases, is that it offers (but cannot command) an ethos which advocates co-operation not competitive rivalry; mutual interdependence not individual acquisitiveness; a bias to the poor not aggrandisement of the rich; shared responsibility not private rights; forgiveness and restitution not punitive vindictiveness; transparency not concealment; a concern for the weak not sycophancy to the strong; and a vision of the Kingdom on Earth which subverts all human claims to ultimate authority, truth and legitimacy made by state or party whether of the left or right. I, for one, will be looking at the long-awaited election manifestos with those touchstones in my hand and I warn to anyone who has the courage to declare that they share them. Hugh Dickinson is the Dean of Salisbury.

صلى الله عليه وسلم

Last week's preliminary results

Table with columns: Company, Sector, Dividend, Yield, etc. Lists various companies and their financial performance for the week.

Results due next week

Table with columns: Company, Sector, Dividend, Yield, etc. Lists companies with results due next week.

Last week's interim results

Table with columns: Company, Sector, Dividend, Yield, etc. Lists companies with interim results for the week.

Interim dividends

Table with columns: Company, Sector, Dividend, Yield, etc. Lists companies with interim dividends.

Permanent interest-bearing shares

Table with columns: Company, Sector, Dividend, Yield, etc. Lists permanent interest-bearing shares.

Directors' share transactions in listed companies

Table with columns: Company, Sector, Dividend, Yield, etc. Lists directors' share transactions.

Gilt issues - best value v tax status

Table with columns: Issue, Price, Yield, etc. Lists gilt issues and their tax status.

PURCHASES

Table with columns: Company, Sector, Dividend, Yield, etc. Lists purchase transactions.

Current takeover bids and mergers

Table with columns: Company, Value of bid, etc. Lists current takeover bids and mergers.

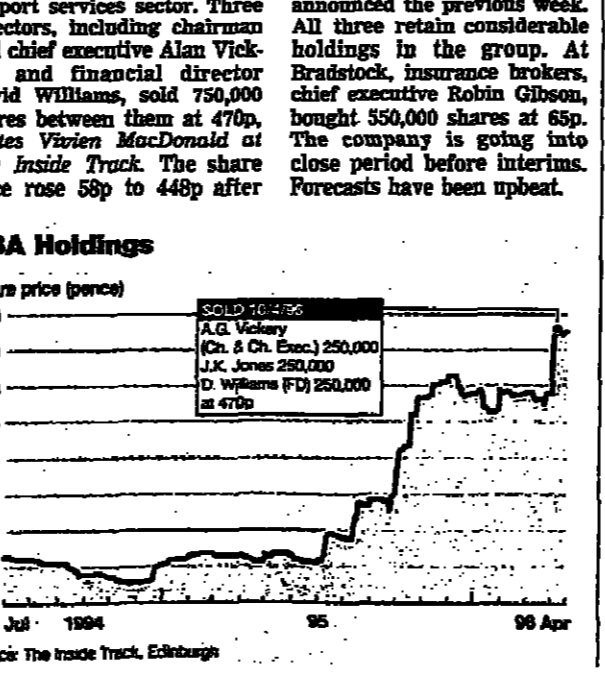
Directors' dealings

Table with columns: Company, Director, Dealings, etc. Lists directors' share transactions.

Bids

The electricity sector was again the centre of attention this week when National Power...

JBA Holdings



In the Pink

Baby-boomers who nurse nest-eggs and houses

John Train detects a significant change in US savings trends that poses many questions for the future

John Train is chairman of Montrose Advisers, investment managers in New York City. He discusses the impact of baby-boomers on savings and investment trends.

The tax structure favours home ownership

The founding fathers believed that the 'sturdy yeoman' who owned his farm, or dwelling, made a better citizen than the rootless renter.

As a result of these and other advantages, an extremely high proportion of Americans own their homes or flats. The houses grow larger as additional structures are added...

Tiers of joy

Table showing Current Interest Rates (variable) Gross p.a. for different balance ranges.

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Table of fund prices and performance data for various UK-based funds, including sections for 'London Life - Contd.', 'London & Manchester Assurance Co. Ltd.', 'National Westminster Life Assurance Ltd.', 'Prudential Assurance Co.', 'Scottish Amicable Contd.', and 'Scottish Provident Institution - Contd.'.

Table of fund prices and performance data for various UK-based funds, including sections for 'Scottish Amicable Contd.', 'Scottish Provident Institution - Contd.', 'Scottish Widows' Group', 'Scottish Widows' Group', 'Scottish Widows' Group', 'Scottish Widows' Group', and 'Scottish Widows' Group'.

Table of fund prices and performance data for various UK-based funds, including sections for 'Money Market Trust Funds', 'Money Market Bank Accounts', 'Management Services', and 'Money Market Trust Funds'.

Advertisement for FT Managed Funds Service featuring a club symbol and the text: 'FREE ANNUAL REPORTS FROM THE FT WHERE YOU SEE THIS SIGN. SEE THE LONDON SHARE SERVICE PAGES FOR FURTHER DETAILS'.

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OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS

BERMUDA (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Bermuda (SIB Recognised) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

BERMUDA (REGULATED)**

Table listing Bermuda (Regulated) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

GUERNSEY (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Guernsey (SIB Recognised) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA O/S FUND LTD - Contd.

Table listing Royal Bank of Canada O/S Fund Ltd funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

IRELAND (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Ireland (SIB Recognised) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

IRELAND (REGULATED)**

Table listing Ireland (Regulated) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

LET Asset Management Ltd

Table listing LET Asset Management Ltd funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

ISLE OF MAN (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Isle of Man (SIB Recognised) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

ISLE OF MAN (REGULATED)**

Table listing Isle of Man (Regulated) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

Debut Group Fund Mgrs Ireland Ltd - Contd.

Table listing Debut Group Fund Mgrs Ireland Ltd funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

JERSEY (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Jersey (SIB Recognised) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

JERSEY (REGULATED)**

Table listing Jersey (Regulated) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

Northern Fund Managers Ltd Ltd

Table listing Northern Fund Managers Ltd funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

ISLE OF MAN (REGULATED)**

Table listing Isle of Man (Regulated) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

JERSEY (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Jersey (SIB Recognised) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

INVEST International Limited - Contd.

Table listing INVEST International Limited funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

LUXEMBOURG (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Luxembourg (SIB Recognised) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

LUXEMBOURG (REGULATED)**

Table listing Luxembourg (Regulated) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

St. James Place Ltd

Table listing St. James Place Ltd funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

LUXEMBOURG (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Luxembourg (SIB Recognised) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

LUXEMBOURG (REGULATED)**

Table listing Luxembourg (Regulated) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

St. James Place Ltd

Table listing St. James Place Ltd funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

LUXEMBOURG (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Luxembourg (SIB Recognised) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

LUXEMBOURG (REGULATED)**

Table listing Luxembourg (Regulated) funds with columns for Fund Name, NAV, and % Change.

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150 من الاصل

FT MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE

FT Cityline Unit Trust Prices are available over the telephone. Call the FT Cityline Help Desk on (+44 171) 873 4376 for more details.

Main table containing financial data for various funds, including columns for fund names, prices, and performance metrics. Includes sub-sections for 'OFFSHORE INSURANCES' and 'OTHER OFFSHORE FUNDS'.

MANAGED FUNDS NOTES
Prices are in pence unless otherwise indicated and have been rounded to the nearest pence.
There is a charge for all buying orders.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES (Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing US stock market data including S&P 500, Dow Jones, and various sector indices with columns for Open, Settle, Price, Change, High, Low, and Volume.

CANADA

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Canadian stock market data including TSX 300 and various sector indices.

MEXICO

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Mexican stock market data including IPC and various sector indices.

BRAZIL

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Brazilian stock market data including Ibovespa and various sector indices.

ARGENTINA

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Argentine stock market data including Merval and various sector indices.

CHILE

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Chilean stock market data including IPSA and various sector indices.

PERU

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Peruvian stock market data including IGV and various sector indices.

VENEZUELA

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Venezuelan stock market data including IBV and various sector indices.

COLOMBIA

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Colombian stock market data including IVB and various sector indices.

ECUADOR

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Ecuadorian stock market data including ISE and various sector indices.

PANAMA

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Panamanian stock market data including ISE and various sector indices.

CUBA

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Cuban stock market data including ISE and various sector indices.

HONDURAS

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Honduran stock market data including ISE and various sector indices.

GUATEMALA

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Guatemalan stock market data including ISE and various sector indices.

EL SALVADOR

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Salvadoran stock market data including ISE and various sector indices.

NICARAGUA

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Nicaraguan stock market data including ISE and various sector indices.

PARAGUAY

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Paraguayan stock market data including ISE and various sector indices.

URUGUAY

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Uruguayan stock market data including ISE and various sector indices.

CHINA

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Chinese stock market data including SSE and various sector indices.

HONG KONG

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Hong Kong stock market data including Hang Seng and various sector indices.

TAIWAN

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Taiwanese stock market data including TSE and various sector indices.

INDONESIA

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Indonesian stock market data including IHSG and various sector indices.

THAILAND

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Thai stock market data including SET and various sector indices.

PHILIPPINES

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Philippine stock market data including PSE and various sector indices.

VIETNAM

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Vietnamese stock market data including HNX and various sector indices.

LAOS

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Laotian stock market data including HNX and various sector indices.

MYANMAR

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Myanmar stock market data including HNX and various sector indices.

INDONESIA

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Indonesian stock market data including IHSG and various sector indices.

THAILAND

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Thai stock market data including SET and various sector indices.

PHILIPPINES

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Philippine stock market data including PSE and various sector indices.

VIETNAM

(Apr 19/1996)

(in \$ bn unless stated)

Table listing Vietnamese stock market data including HNX and various sector indices.

Advertisement for Rockwell with text: 'From outer space to the factory floor Rockwell leads the way' and the Rockwell logo.

INDICES

Table showing various global stock indices including S&P 500, Dow Jones, Nikkei, and others with columns for Open, Settle, Price, Change, High, Low, and Volume.

US INDICES

Table showing US stock market indices including S&P 500, Dow Jones, and various sector indices.

AFRICA

Table showing African stock market data including various regional indices.

SOUTH AFRICA

Table showing South African stock market data including JSE and various sector indices.

PACIFIC

Table showing Pacific stock market data including various regional indices.

INDEX FUTURES

Table showing index futures data for various markets including S&P 500, Dow Jones, and others.

US INDEXES

Table showing US index futures data including S&P 500, Dow Jones, and others.

AFRICA

Table showing African index futures data including various regional indices.

SOUTH AFRICA

Table showing South African index futures data including JSE and others.

PACIFIC

Table showing Pacific index futures data including various regional indices.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: 'صكنا الامل'.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page with text: 'Techno shares se Nasdaq', 'Also gives up', 'WEAKENED BODY', and 'TEAM ACCOUNTANTS WORK'.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE Dealings

Details of business done shown below have been taken with consent from the London Stock Exchange Official List and should not be reproduced without permission.

Details relate to those securities not included in the FT Share Information Services. Unless otherwise indicated prices are in pence. The prices are those at which the business was done in the 24 hours up to 5 pm on Thursday and are set out in ascending order which denotes the day's highest and lowest dealings.

For those securities in which no business was recorded in Thursday's Official List the latest recorded business in the four previous days is given with the relevant date. Bargains at special prices. Bargains done the previous day.

British Funds, etc

Treasury 13 1/2% 2000/05 - £122.22 (17/96)

Corporation and County Stocks

Birmingham Corp 2 1/2% Stk 192/08 after - 125 (17/96)

UK Public Bonds

Fort Police Authority 3 1/4% Funded Debt - 136

Foreign Stocks, Bonds, etc (coupons payable in London)

Geac (Ireland) of Monopoly 4 1/2% 1997 Stk - 159

British International PLC 9% Cum Red Plt £1 - 84

British Water Group PLC 5 1/2% 2nd Non-Cum - 110

British Land Co PLC 9% Subord Intm Div - 102

British Telecom PLC 7 1/2% Cum Div - 102

British Telecommunications PLC 7 1/2% Cum Div - 102

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British Telecommunications PLC 7 1/2% Cum Div - 102

FT-SE ACTUARIES INDICES. The FT-SE Actuaries Share Indices are calculated by FT-SE International Limited in conjunction with the Faculty of Actuaries and the Institute of Actuaries.

Advertisement for Fleet Manager software. Includes text: 'Gone to look at ways of saving money', 'Gone to evaluate contract hire', 'Gone to see what's new in fleet', 'Gone to check out new software systems'. Also includes 'FINANCIAL DIRECTOR' and 'FLEET MANAGER' labels.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially obscured by the Fleet Manager ad. Includes the text 'SE indic' at the top.

السوق من الامل

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

FT-SE indices soar to new records on bid hopes

By Steve Thompson, UK Stock Market Editor

UK shares continued their upward spiral yesterday with all the main indices racing ahead to new records.

heavy trading in the option. It became clear yesterday that the recent upsurge in London has caught many of the big institutions on the wrong foot.

one of the biggest traders in the marketplace. The US investment bank said it had been heavily involved in programme trade business; a buy programme, whose value has been estimated at anything up to \$1bn and said to have been started at the end of last week, was still being worked yesterday.

trading was the expiry of the FT-SE 100 April index options in mid-morning. Opening at around 5 points higher, the FT-SE 100 began to accelerate and as the expiry took place, before easing off in the afternoon of a bout of intense activity in options, the cash market and the futures.

FT-SE Mid 250 gave an even more impressive performance, surging a further 40.9 to 4,534.5, or 2.9 per cent on the week, while the FT-SE Small Cap index jumped 18.2 to a record 2,188.0.

TRADING VOLUME IN MAJOR STOCKS

Table with columns: Stock Name, Vol. (000), Closing, % Change, Day's Change. Lists major stocks like BP, Shell, British Airways, etc.

EQUITY FUTURES AND OPTIONS TRADING

Stock index futures stormed ahead with the FT-SE 100 June contract hitting a new all-time closing high and notching up a net gain on the week of 94 points, writes Jeffrey Brown.

Table with columns: Index Name, Open, Best Price, Change, High, Low, Est. Vol, Open Int. Lists FT-SE 100, FT-SE Mid 250, etc.

Options boost for Gas

British Gas bounded ahead as takeover speculation mingled with a number of technical stories to fuel up sentiment and hold turnover to 21m.

The bid rumours were given a helping hand from disparate share price movements for the two oil giants. Shell, seen by City gossip as the most likely Gas predator, came off 4 to 589 1/2p.

NEW 52 WEEK HIGHS AND LOWS

NEW 52 WEEK HIGHS: GLETS (I) ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (S) Non-Brewery, Mott MacDonald (S)...

NEW 52 WEEK LOWS: GLETS (I) ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (S) Non-Brewery, Mott MacDonald (S)...

FT-SE-A All-Share Index

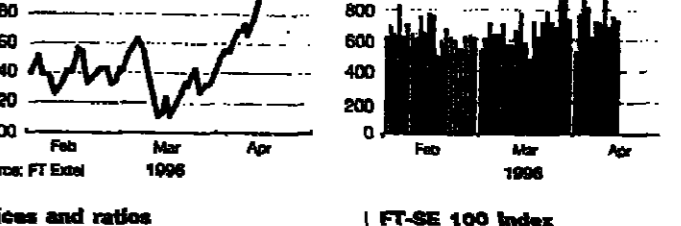


Table with columns: Index Name, Value, % Change. Lists FT-SE Mid 250, FT-SE-A 350, FT-SE-A All-Share, etc.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

Table with columns: Company Name, Price, % Change. Lists London (Pence) shares like Acom Computer, Ashley (Laura), etc.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY (cont.)

Table with columns: Company Name, Price, % Change. Lists Falls shares like Corntab Pharm, etc.

FT-SE Actuaries Share Indices

Table with columns: Index Name, Day's Change, Apr 18, Apr 17, Apr 16, Apr 15, Apr 14, Apr 13, Apr 12, Apr 11, Apr 10, Apr 9, Apr 8, Apr 7, Apr 6, Apr 5, Apr 4, Apr 3, Apr 2, Apr 1. Lists FT-SE 100, FT-SE Mid 250, etc.

The UK Series

Table with columns: Index Name, Day's Change, Apr 18, Apr 17, Apr 16, Apr 15, Apr 14, Apr 13, Apr 12, Apr 11, Apr 10, Apr 9, Apr 8, Apr 7, Apr 6, Apr 5, Apr 4, Apr 3, Apr 2, Apr 1. Lists FT-SE 100, FT-SE Mid 250, etc.

FT-SE Actuaries All-Share

Table with columns: Index Name, Day's Change, Apr 18, Apr 17, Apr 16, Apr 15, Apr 14, Apr 13, Apr 12, Apr 11, Apr 10, Apr 9, Apr 8, Apr 7, Apr 6, Apr 5, Apr 4, Apr 3, Apr 2, Apr 1. Lists 10 Industrial Actuaries, 10 Financial Actuaries, etc.

Hourly movements

Table with columns: Index Name, Open, 0.00, 11.00, 12.00, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00, 16.00, High/Low, Close. Lists FT-SE 100, FT-SE Mid 250, etc.

FT-SE Actuaries 350 Industry baskets

Table with columns: Basket Name, Base Date, Base Value, Current Value, % Change. Lists H&M & Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, etc.

Equity section or group

Table with columns: Equity section or group, Date, Value, % Change. Lists FT-SE 100, FT-SE Mid 250, etc.

SKline active

Pharmaceuticals and consumer products group SmithKline & Beecham upgraded their recommendation on SKline to outperform from market perform.

boosted by reports that analysts at US broker Oppenheimer & Co had upgraded their recommendation on SmithKline to outperform from market perform.

The group's American depositary receipts (ADRs) were reported to have been actively traded in New York yesterday.

Sentiment in London was

boosted by reports that analysts at US broker Oppenheimer & Co had upgraded their recommendation on SmithKline to outperform from market perform.

able precursor to further marketing links, and the stock closed 21 1/2 higher at a new high of 589p.

Composite insurers staged a good recovery after their recent underperformance, which was caused mainly by the bad weather across the US and UK mentioned by both Royal and Commercial Union in their trading statements last week.

Among leisure shares, Thorn

EMJ jumped 33 to 1813, a movement driven by buy-side activity in traded options.

Among food retailers, WM

Morrison Supermarkets continued to move strongly ahead on persistent bid talk. The shares gained another 8 to 171p, in trade of 3.6m.

However, there were those

that cast doubt on the bid stories and pointed instead to selling of stock yesterday by the company's finance director.

NOMURA ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of shareholders of NOMURA ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE FUND will be held at the registered office on Friday 3rd May 1996, at 10.00 am with the following agenda:

GIVE US A STAPLE

And don't forget to add your cheque to fund more Macmillan Nurses to help 1,000,000 people living with cancer.

TRADE 25 TIMES A YEAR?

READ ON, CALL FREE, SAVE MORE. Trade at least 25 times a year! Look what Fidelity Active Trader offers you.

OFEX FACILITY

Table with columns: Company, Mid Price, % Change, Company, Mid Price, % Change. Lists Advanced Media Group PLC, Avon Village PLC, etc.

Macmillan

Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund exists to support people with cancer and their families. Regd. Charity No. 261017

LONDON SHARE SERVICE

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES		CHEMICALS		ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL EQPT - Cont.		EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES - Cont.		HEALTH CARE - Cont.		INVESTMENT TRUSTS - Cont.	
BANKS, MERCHANT		DISTRIBUTORS		ENGINEERING		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE		INVESTMENT TRUSTS	
BANKS, RETAIL		ENGINEERING, VEHICLES		FOOD PRODUCERS		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE		INVESTMENT TRUSTS	
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST		EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES		GAS DISTRIBUTION		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE		INVESTMENT TRUSTS	
BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION		EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES		HEALTH CARE		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE		INVESTMENT TRUSTS	
BUILDING MATS & MERCHANTS		EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE		INVESTMENT TRUSTS	
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS		ENGINEERING		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE		INVESTMENT TRUSTS	
ELECTRICITY		ENGINEERING		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE		INVESTMENT TRUSTS	
ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL EQPT		ENGINEERING		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE		INVESTMENT TRUSTS	
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES		ENGINEERING		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE		INVESTMENT TRUSTS	
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES		ENGINEERING		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE		INVESTMENT TRUSTS	
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES		ENGINEERING		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE		INVESTMENT TRUSTS	
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES		ENGINEERING		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE		INVESTMENT TRUSTS	
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES		ENGINEERING		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE		INVESTMENT TRUSTS	
EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES		ENGINEERING		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		HOUSEHOLD GOODS		INSURANCE		INVESTMENT TRUSTS	

**SMART BUSINESSMEN
DON'T PAY THEIR STAFF.**

Your business is running a business. So the less precious time you spend worrying about your payroll the better. Hand the problem over, lock, stock and pay slip to CMG. CMG, one of Europe's leading IT services companies, will take over total responsibility for the administration of your payroll, including dealing with the Inland Revenue and DSS. It's a guaranteed, trouble-free, accurate, totally efficient, lightning fast payroll service. Phone Freephone 0800 413703 now for further information.

CMG
Creating shared success.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	BANKS, MERCHANT	BANKS, RETAIL	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST	BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION	BUILDING MATS & MERCHANTS	DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS	ELECTRICITY	ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL EQPT	ENGINEERING, VEHICLES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES
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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	BANKS, MERCHANT	BANKS, RETAIL	BREWERIES, PUBS & REST	BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION	BUILDING MATS & MERCHANTS	DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS	ELECTRICITY	ELECTRONIC & ELECTRICAL EQPT	ENGINEERING, VEHICLES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES
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صندوق الاستثمار

INVESTMENT COMPANIES

LONDON SHARE SERVICE

سكرا من الاصل

INV TRUSTS SPLIT CAPITAL - Cont.

Table listing investment trusts with columns for name, price, and change.

LEISURE & HOTELS - Cont.

Table listing leisure and hotel companies with columns for name, price, and change.

OTHER FINANCIAL - Cont.

Table listing other financial companies with columns for name, price, and change.

PROPERTY - Cont.

Table listing property companies with columns for name, price, and change.

SUPPORT SERVICES - Cont.

Table listing support services companies with columns for name, price, and change.

AIM - Cont.

Table listing AIM companies with columns for name, price, and change.

OTHER INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing other investment trusts with columns for name, price, and change.

LIFE ASSURANCE

Table listing life assurance companies with columns for name, price, and change.

PAPER, PACKAGING & PRINTING

Table listing paper, packaging, and printing companies with columns for name, price, and change.

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing food retailers with columns for name, price, and change.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table listing telecommunications companies with columns for name, price, and change.

AMERICANS

Table listing American companies with columns for name, price, and change.

INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Table listing investment companies with columns for name, price, and change.

OIL EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

Table listing oil exploration and production companies with columns for name, price, and change.

PHARMACEUTICALS - Cont.

Table listing pharmaceutical companies with columns for name, price, and change.

RETAILERS, GENERAL - Cont.

Table listing general retailers with columns for name, price, and change.

TRANSPORT

Table listing transport companies with columns for name, price, and change.

CANADIANS

Table listing Canadian companies with columns for name, price, and change.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table listing leisure and hotel companies with columns for name, price, and change.

OIL, INTEGRATED

Table listing integrated oil companies with columns for name, price, and change.

PROPERTY

Table listing property companies with columns for name, price, and change.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Table listing support services companies with columns for name, price, and change.

WATER

Table listing water companies with columns for name, price, and change.

SOUTH AFRICANS

Table listing South African companies with columns for name, price, and change.

Advertisement for Sharelink with phone number 0121 200 2242 and the slogan 'Helping investors help themselves.'

TOBACCO

Table listing tobacco companies with columns for name, price, and change.

GUIDE TO LONDON SHARE SERVICE

Price for the London Share Service offered by FT Share, a member of the Financial Times Group. Company quotations are based on those used for the FT-SE Actuaries Share Index.

Singer & Friedlander Investment Funds 0500 62 62 26

FINANCIAL TIMES

Weekend April 20/April 21 1996

brother PRINTERS FAX MACHINES

CDU to bring forward plans for cutting tax burden on Germans

By Peter Norman in Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union will accelerate plans for a fundamental reform of Germany's complex and inequitable income tax system, the party said yesterday.

cuts, welfare restructuring and state, supply side reforms being negotiated by senior policymakers in the Bonn coalition.

Two proposals for a simpler and fairer income tax system have emerged over the past week.

On Thursday, Mr Hermann Otto Sols, the FDP leader in the Bundestag, proposed a system based on tax rates of 15 per cent, 25 per cent and 35 per cent instead of the present regime with a top rate of 53 per cent.

Beef ban

Continued from Page 1

low incidence of BSE could be explained by the fact that there was much more grass-based, as against intensive, farming in Northern Ireland than in the rest of the UK.

Italian rightwing sees split as election campaign closes

By Robert Graham in Rome

Major differences emerged in the leadership of the rightwing Freedom Alliance headed by Italy's former prime minister Mr Silvio Berlusconi as the campaign for tomorrow's general election closed yesterday.

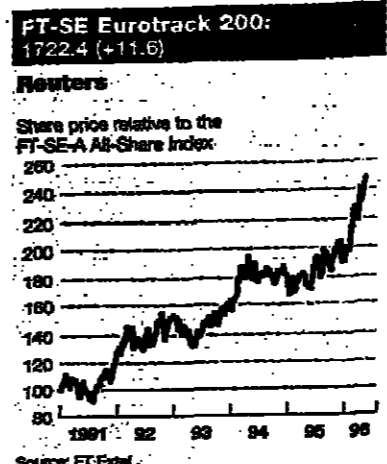
Although the two allies have had a strained relationship for several months, this is the first time it has surfaced so publicly.

tem and the distribution of party support, Olive Tree will still have to gain a bigger swing to prevent the right holding a slight edge in the chamber of deputies.

Another planet

THE LEX COLUMN

It is the stuff that Hollywood dreams are made of. Only five years after it opened with a massive fanfare, the Planet Hollywood restaurant group started trading on the stock market yesterday with a capitalisation of over \$2.5bn, representing a 1995 price-earnings ratio of more than 100 times.



The Planet Hollywood show must be galling for directors of the UK's Rank Organisation. Not only did the bulk of Planet's directors come from Rank's wholly-owned Hard Rock Cafe chain.

At the current price, however, even the group's admirers are starting to raise an eyebrow at the valuation. Reuters is trading on 27 times this year's earnings - an 85 per cent premium to the stock market average.

Reuters

Reuters' share price performance threatens to melt one of its own dealing screens. The shares have gained 35 per cent so far this year, placing them top of the FT-SE 100 rankings.

UK stock market

The UK stock market's latest spurt - it hit new highs this week - makes analysts' conservative year-end targets for the FT-SE 100 index look pessimistic.

\$600m offer to haemophiliacs with HIV

By Richard Waters in New York

Companies which make blood clotting agents for haemophiliacs have offered \$600m in compensation to Americans who contracted the HIV virus from their products in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Drugs groups set to compensate US patients given infected blood

contracted the virus, although some put the figure higher. The offer, which also includes \$40m to cover administration and legal costs, will be abandoned if more than 100 people reject it to pursue their cases through the courts, the four groups said.

to curtail the spread of HIV. The bulk of the settlement would be borne by Bayer, the German pharmaceuticals giant which controlled 45 per cent of the US blood clotting market.

the cases which have come to court in the US. Bayer has successfully defended 10 cases, while only one - against Rhone-Poulenc Rorer - has resulted in a victory for the plaintiff.

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